THE TIMES

…abour rebels quit to …rm new party by Easter

…ading social democrats yesterday ceased … embers of the Labour Party, they said … would establish a new party by Easter. … MPs who resigned the Labour whip … ed a parliamentary committee of … crats in the Commons, with Dr David … as chairman. In the Lords, nine peers … esigned the Labour whip.

…ocial democrats are joined by 9 peers

… Emery … Editor

…ncing formally for the …e their intention to … a new party by Easter, …ling social democrats …, in their own words, … to be members" of …r Party.

…hirley Williams, Mr …nkins, Mr William …nd Dr David Owen— …t ministers in the …ur government — … statement claiming … they founded the …or Social Democracy …ftermath of Labour's …onference at Wembley …, it had become clear …illions of people …t Britain", including …ned Conservative …pported their call for …ent in British politics. …w party would be …efore Easter and a …mocratic manifesto … Meanwhile, in the … 12-strong "parlia…mittee" of social …as formed with Dr … as chairman.

…e MPs, as expected, … Owen and Mr Rod… signing the Labour … Labour peers also …e Labour whip in …s. They included two … Labour Cabinet minis…

…e Parliament, suppor…nding to contest the …ncil elections in May …ged by Dr Owen to … independents. There …time for the new party …ize and validate candi… … said.

…ocial democratic Lords …y take their first joint …ntary action with the … in pursuit of propor… representation in the …ctions to the European …nt.

… action has, however, … the putative allies in … Commons nuclear de…bate. Dr Owen intends, …nging Labour, to make …r the social democrats, …posing Trident, support …inuation of the present …lent Polaris deterrent, …e Liberals, like Labour,

…er, the social demo…d Liberals will today …eir first formal parlia… consultations as a pre… forming the eventual … alliance with which … to break the hold of … major parties. Last …r David Steel, Liberal … predicted "an irresis…e" for such an alliance …ext election.

…nsed a "sea change" … —those which produced …ear intervals, the 1906 … victory, and the 1945 … government, and he … "unreserved welcome" … social democrats depar… …m the Labour Party.

…minded them, however, …beral gains in five out … local government by-… …is last week indicated …ey could "deliver more …atures in a newspaper … advertisement". … clear dig at the 10… … of support publish… … social democrats. …

Mr Michael Foo… the Opposition, … their public acknow… the defectors. They … blow to him, of c… … ge a bitter …

His close ally, … Shore, the shadow … yesterday gave a wa… the social democrats … fuse Labour voters and … the party. A new par… not succeed in reshaping … politics".

The main criticism … to Mr Ronald Hayward, … secretary of the Labou… In a statement he sai… their constituents elect… as Labour MPs … Labour policies it w… best if they resigne… parliamentary seats an… their constituents seek… port on their new pa… gramme, whatever … be."

The social democ… sponse, given by Dr … Mr Rodgers at a We… news conference, was … Labour Party had cha… them. They claimed … hering to the Labour … upon which they were … in 1979. Clearly, they … intention of resigning … voke by-election tests.

The first mass defect… a major party since the … came in a low-key fas… dividually, letters were … to Mr Michael Cock… Labour whip. Mr John … MP for Farnworth, … "whip" for the Soc… they will call themselv… to see him.

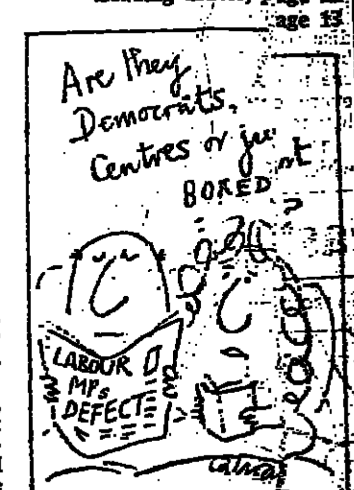
The peers, with Lord … acting as organizer, wrote … Foot and informed … Llewellyn-Davies, Opp… Chief Whip.

According to Dr Ow… more MPs are expected … the defectors, at least … after the formation … party. However, Lord … expects at least nine … benchers" in the Lords … the new party.

Statement and reaction, … Diary, page 2

Leading article, page 12

… page 13



Leaders of teachers' unions accept 7.5%

By a Staff Reporter

Union leaders representing 470,000 teachers in England and Wales yesterday accepted a 7.5 per cent pay increase from April 1.

The teachers, who had claimed 15 per cent, last month refused even to discuss an opening offer from employers of 4 per cent.

Yesterday's surprise settlement came at the end of only the second meeting of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay.

It will give the average classroom teacher who earns £6,992 a year a weekly rise of £10.48. The lowest-paid teachers earning £4,328 a year will get a weekly rise of £6.24 and a head teacher on a maximum salary of £18,249 will get £26.32 more a week.

The settlement will add another £262.5m to the total salary bill of £3,500m.

Mr Frederick Jarvis, leader of the union side and general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said at the end of the talks, that it was the best figure that could be got by way of a negotiated agreement.

Mr John Horrell, leader of the management side, said that the increase will tax local authority budgets.

"They will have to gauge the number of teachers they employ. This will push a number of authorities into being dubbed overspenders unless they employ fewer teachers."

Mr Horrell said that he hoped there would not be any redundancies but added: "This settlement puts teacher jobs at risk and hence the size of classes and subject choice".

The second largest teachers union, the National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers opposed the settlement. Mr Terence Casey, its general secretary, wanted the talks to go on longer in the hope of a better deal.

Civil Service union leaders predicted that the teachers' settlement would have no effect on their plans to start a campaign of industrial action over the 7 per cent offer that they have rejected.

Mr Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said: "What is more relevant to us are the deals done by the mineworkers and the water workers. Teachers, after all, are higher paid than civil servants."

West End violence: Police with riot shields holding back West Indian demonstrators in central London yesterday as thousands marched in protest after the death of 13 people in a fire at a house in Deptford in January. Police on horseback sealed off the Victoria Embankment as the nine-mile march, from Deptford to Hyde Park, went up Fleet Street, and a helicopter circled overhead. Seventeen policemen were hurt and 23 people were arrested as violence broke out after the demonstrators left Regent Street and entered Cavendish Square. The marchers denounced police handling of the investigation into the house fire. One banner said: "13 dead, 27 injured, we will not let it rest". Another placard said: "New Cross mass murder—police cover-up". Police say there is no evidence that the fire was racially motivated. Report, page 2

ICI divisions merger may mean over 1,000 extra redundancies

By John Huxley

Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest manufacturing company, is to merge its petrochemicals and plastics divisions in an attempt to halt soaring losses.

The two businesses, which together lost £79m on a joint turnover of more than £1,700m, will be amalgamated from April with the loss of perhaps 1,000 or more jobs and the closure of one divisional headquarters.

Last week ICI announced that it was cutting its dividend for the first time since 1938 after trading at a loss for the second half of last year. Sir Maurice Hodgson, the chairman, gave a warning that the group's businesses would have to be reorganized to take account of structural changes in markets.

ICI has already drastically cut output and the work force from its synthetic fibres division, which lost £86m in 1980. More than 4,000 jobs are being shed.

ICI said last night that the formation of a single petrochemicals and plastics division, to be headed by Mr Tom Hutchison, at present chairman of the plastics business, would enable the resources and products of the two to be concentrated on European markets.

"The coordination of the company's upstream activities in oil and petrochemicals, with its downstream activities in plastics will give ICI a more efficient and powerful base."

At present, the petrochemicals division is based on Teesside. It employs about 10,000 in the United Kingdom, nearly all of them at various sites in the North-east. Last year the division made a loss of £44m after a profit in 1979 of £94m.

The plastics division employs about 9,200 in the United Kingdom and takes 60 per cent of its raw material from the petrochemicals' division. The headquarters and research and development facilities are at Welwyn, Hertfordshire, but production is scattered among a number of plants, in the North-east, North-west and Scotland.

ICI said it was too early to say how many jobs would be lost. The company expects to shed some 6,000 jobs throughout its entire operations this year.

There will now be only one board of directors, instead of two. Mr Rab Telfer, aged 52, chairman of the petrochemicals division, is to move to London where he will undertake a special assignment to investigate group energy and feedstock strategy.

There has been no decision yet on which headquarters to close. The Teesside offices are newer and closer to production facilities, but the Welwyn site has research and pilot plant facilities.

Together the two divisions employ about 13,000 blue collar workers and 7,000 monthly-paid white-collar workers. It may be among the latter where duplicated skills and services are thought to exist that most of the job cuts will come.

ICI said its statement was a "very early announcement of intent", and promised extensive consultations with employees.

Both of the affected divisions have been badly hit by a combination of adverse factors which resulted in ICI's pre-tax profits slumping from £613m to £284m. They include depressed markets, rising energy and feedstock costs, and the strength of sterling.

Fisons loses £16m, page 15

Mrs Thatcher defends deployment force as vital Soviet deterrent

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement to the Commons yesterday on her talks in Washington with President Reagan indicated the deep concern of the British Government about the hostility aroused in the Middle East over the Anglo-American proposal for a Western rapid deployment force and the suggestion that it could be used to protect the vital Gulf region.

With the Prime Minister making her first visit to the Gulf states next month, some clarification was required to dispel the fears that the old imperial powers were preparing once again to ride roughshod over the feelings of the governments of that area.

At every opportunity throughout her cross-examination in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher emphasized that the rapid deployment force, if it were created, would be available for use anywhere in the world, and not just in the Gulf, where stability and security was threatened by Soviet encroachment.

She also [illegible] although [illegible] allies would [illegible] over the creation [illegible] force, the countries of [illegible] region concerned would [illegible] consulted before any [illegible] place.

As [illegible] Commons [illegible] of the [illegible] a force [illegible] Foreign [illegible]

[illegible] rapid deployment force [illegible] been [illegible] for [illegible] it [illegible] stationed [illegible] States [illegible]

[illegible] Parliamentary report, page 7

it sensible to have a force which would make a response possible in certain circumstances. But, he went on: "I do not believe our neighbours and friends in the Gulf need have any fear that it is directed at them or that there will be any action taken in their defence for which they do not ask."

Nothing was said or done in Washington about which anyone in the Middle East or in this country should have any doubts.

In the Commons, as Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, pressed the Prime Minister for further clarification, she replied that unless the creation of a rapid deployment force was considered, the capacity to meet threats to freedom was denied.

She told Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, that the Government's first duty was to protect our own freedom and that of the Western alliance.

Clearly exhilarated by her reception in Washington, Mrs Thatcher was in no mood to be cowed by the hostile reception from the Labour benches. She was [illegible] words [illegible] Mr Foot [illegible] shoulder to [illegible] President Reagan [illegible] aggression [illegible] the right [illegible] members.

To [illegible] told [illegible]

Water workers still divided on pay offer

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Water and sewerage workers appeared divided last night about their 13 per cent pay offer. Union delegates representing about 2,000 workers in the north east of England voted to reject it, while there was a drift back to work in parts of Yorkshire as unofficial action ended.

Employers in parts of west Wales have rejected the offer and it was understood that some large treatment plants in the London area had also refused to accept the strong recommendation from national union officials for acceptance.

A meeting of senior shop stewards representing more than 1,000 water workers in north-east London called last night for rejection of the offer and for national industrial action from March 16. Mr Stanley Florence, chairman of the stewards' committee, said later: "We had a hard job this evening to restrain some of the members from coming out on unofficial action straight away".

A delegate conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU) in Newcastle upon Tyne voted by a large majority to reject the offer, but shop stewards urged the 200 men on strike to return to work to await a national decision.

The effects of the men's action was being felt as the North-east suffered its worst floods for 20 years. About 200 homes in the region were without water, and in Newcastle upon Tyne flooding from a burst main led to 1,800 children being sent home from school.

The vote in west Wales was taken by members of both the GMWU and the National Union of Public Employees, who decided to continue their overtime ban while at the same time providing emergency cover.

National union officials have said that a vote for rejection is a vote for a national strike by all the 32,000 workers in England and Wales. The officials were making strenuous efforts to persuade members to accept the offer.

Pennine vote: A meeting of 100 water workers from the Pennine district of the North West Water Authority voted to continue unofficial action (John Chartres writes from Manchester). The decision means that between 250 and 300 workers in the Oldham, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne and Bury areas will remain on strike.

President Giscard to stand for new term

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 2

President Giscard d'Estaing announced today that he would stand in April for another seven-year term. It had been a foregone conclusion for several months that he would enter the presidential race when he thought the time was ripe—as late as possible without prejudicing his chances.

In his 10-minute statement, televised from the Elysée Palace, he stressed that he had decided to stand because "all the indications show no other candidate can win against the opposition".

Reverting to the theme, dear to General de Gaulle, and restated by himself in an interview on Saturday, that the choice before the country was between him and disorder, the President went on to say that the opposition remained what it had always been since 1958 with the same leaders determined to destroy the Fifth Republic. They would be compelled either to govern with the communists or to betray their voters after benefiting from their votes.

"Each one of you can understand, by a simple process of reasoning, that he would be driven in spite of himself towards a society he does not want, and toward economic and political decadence, of which one can see examples here and there," he said.

"All the work accomplished in the past years would be destroyed in a few months—farewell to the solidity of the franc and freedom of enterprise, farewell to nuclear independence and the rank of France in the world. We cannot accept that the fate of France is gambled in this way. I shall do all I can to avoid it."

In another fierce indictment of the Opposition, he added that: "France deserves a real democratic debate, in which the voice of reason and of the heart, of freedom and solidarity, will make itself heard, and finally win the day, I am sure."

President Giscard d'Estaing said that he regarded the coming campaign not as a trial but as a deliverance. For seven years reasons of state had prevented him from expressing himself freely.

"What is involved in these elections? The selection of a President of France, who represents her in the world, who leads her policy at home. This president cannot be the man of a party. I shall ask for no investiture. I shall be a party to no arrangement, manoeuvre,

Continued on page 5, col 2

How much would you pay to give a lost little girl a start in life?

Our children's identities are never revealed so as to spare distressing publicity.

Susie (that's not her real name) attends one of the special day care centres we run for children whose future is at risk. As little as £2 could help her.

She is [illegible] child of a broken marriage, with a violent father. When first she came to us, she was so lost and disturbed, she wouldn't speak and didn't even know how to play.

Now, she's beginning to talk and smile, she enjoys painting, and she's building up confidence in herself so that as she gets older, she may be able to relate properly to others.

Susie's tragic story is typical. Little children like her, defenceless, bewildered products of our confused society are the ones most likely to end up delinquent, making a mess of their own lives, and their own children's lives in turn.

At Barnardo's, we run day care centres with trained and dedicated helpers for these children. And, of course, we run residential homes and schools for children—but we are always concerned to try and keep children and parents together. Our help has no limits, but our money does. Skilled help like this costs a lot—though in the end it can not only give Susie a start in life, but also save society a great deal in later years.

Won't you send what you can afford today? For only £2 you can buy a set of paints. For £10 we can buy a sand-tray—and little aids like this help so much. For £100 we can keep a child for a whole year at the centre. Everything helps. And it helps even more if you covenant to pay regularly. That way we can claim back tax, so every £1 you give is worth £1.43. Not a penny is wasted, because we are very careful with the money we get, and many fine helpers do voluntary work for us.

Please send what you can today to the Nicholas Lowe, Appeals Director, Room 945, Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Ilford [illegible]. Or [illegible] Please [illegible] 01-200 [illegible] card number [illegible] Barnardo's Room [illegible]

Dr Barnardo's

…rling falls to …month low …ist dollar

…ished yesterday 2.45 cents …203, its lowest value against …or 10 months. This was due … selling on Far Eastern mar… …ted by speculation that there … big cut in minimum lending … Budget next week and pes… …r Britain's economic pros… …one time the pound was 4 … on Friday's close Page 15

…d-shop test case

…ean Court of Human Rights …urg today hears the case of … dismissed by British Rail for …o join a trade union. They are … that the dismissals are a … the European Convention on …ghts, and it is seen by the …ssociation as a test case for … of the closed shop Page 3

…s' power move

…ire area of the National …ineworkers has proposed …l changes in the voting … the union's national …ommittee, the effect of … give more influence to … like Yorkshire, with most … the proposals are in a … to be discussed at the …al conference Page 4

False information on Yard file

False information on special branch files about a young woman film-maker was given to a potential employer and nearly ruined her career, BBC television's Panorama said last night. It was a case of mistaken identity, discovered only … because her father had been a Scotland Yard officer Page 3

Dirty protest ends

All of the 411 republican terrorists in the Maze jail have suddenly ended their "dirty" protest after three years. The Provisional IRA intends to focus attention on the hunger strike of Mr Robert Sands, in support of their demands Page 4

Discord at Amnesty

An internal dispute in the British section of Amnesty International is to be resolved by a special commission of inquiry. The internecine strife, triggered off by a staff reorganization, has led to a strike, an occupation of the offices, and resignations. Mr Cosmas Desmond, the British director, is on an extended holiday Page 5

Man faked suicide

The body of a hill walker who died with a woman companion in Skye last week has been identified as that of a man who faked his suicide 10 months ago. Keith Greenfield Hunter, aged 29, from Kent, had been living under an assumed name Page 4

Spanish footballer feared kidnapped

It is feared that Joaquin Castro, the popular Spanish footballer nicknamed "Quini", may have been kidnapped. The Barcelona player disappeared from the city on Sunday, but no ransom demands have yet been received. A nuclear engineer was recently murdered by Basque terrorists and a prominent industrialist is still missing Page 5

New defence 'eye'

A contract for a system that will greatly improve the detection of low-flying aircraft has been won by British Aerospace Dynamic. Known as infra-red surveillance, it would partly replace radar, the basis of air defences since the Second World War Page 2

Jobs to go: British Airways, facing heavy losses, has told unions it wants to lose about 1,100 engineering and maintenance staff 4

Athens: Earthquake speeds up plans for large-scale repairs at Parthenon 5

Falklands: Argentina offers special status to islanders 6

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 18, 22; Personal, 22, 24; Sale rooms and antiques, 22

Egypt's chief of defence dies in crash

Cairo, March 2.—Lieutenant-General Ahmed Badawi, the Egyptian Defence Minister, and 13 other military commanders died today in a helicopter crash at the Siwa oasis in Egypt's Western Desert, President Sadat announced.

A statement issued by the President's office said the helicopter hit a lamp post immediately after take-off, which sent it crashing to the ground and killed General Badawi and the other officers.

The craft's four-man crew and the minister's private secretary survived the crash but nine major-generals, a brigadier-general and three colonels were killed.

Among the dead were: Major-General Ali Fayek Sabbour, commander of the Western Military Zone (the Egyptian-Libyan border region), chief-of-staff of the same zone; Major-General Galal Serri, commander of the Engineering Corps; Major-General Ahmed Saad, Commander of the Signal Corps; and Major-General Atiya Mansdur, commander of the Army's Supply Department.

Their deaths were seen as probably the worst blow to the Egyptian High Command for more than 20 years.—UPI.

HOME NEWS

Labour national executive the main cause of confusion in party, Mr Shore says

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

The Labour Party had to wage a campaign not only against deserters and defectors but against "the whole madcap assault upon the tradition and constitution of the party itself", Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, said yesterday.

The social democratic party would not succeed in reshaping British politics, but would be a party formed by people who were until recently members of the Labour Party.

"Unless we are very careful, the effect of this intervention will be to confuse Labour voters, to weaken the Labour Party and to strengthen the Conservatives under whose appalling government the whole nation is suffering today."

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the new Association of Labour Council Groups in London, Mr Shore concentrated on a criticism of the party's national executive committee.

The party faced attack not just by some individual members whose faith in democratic and parliamentary socialism was virtually non-existent, but "by the leadership and encouragement that they have been given, wittingly or unwittingly, by the present majority on the NEC".

Mr Shore, joint chairman of the Parliamentary Solidarity group, said that in the past year the NEC had played the leading role in destabilizing and confusing the party.

"They have sought and substantially succeeded in tearing up a substantial part of the party's constitution and in tilting the carefully balanced distribution of power between the party's elected representatives and the party machine in favour of the latter: in favour, that is to say, of the local general management committees, the annual conference, and above all its ruling body, the NEC."

To insist now on the exclusive and continuing domination of the party over its elected representatives, to take away or greatly reduce the right of elected bodies to choose their leaders and to demand exclusive control not only over the manifesto but also over its implementation was a recipe for electoral failure, "for total disaster if and when office is obtained and for endless and embittered divisions within the party itself".

Those who were elected to positions of power in the party had responsibility only to the party, while elected representatives had a dual responsibility both to the party and to the electorate.

Councils had to face difficult decisions, and those who had not the responsibility of making them and who were not accountable to the electorate could not have the power of making decisions.

Proposals for a wider franchise for electing local leaders, just as those for electing the leader and deputy leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, should be vigorously opposed.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, complained that the NEC had failed to support local government during the last difficult months.

Supported by the leaders of the Labour groups on the Association of County Councils and the Association of District Councils, Mr Smart argued that local government, which was in the front line of the battle against the Conservative Government, should have representation on the NEC. They should not be dictated to by people with no experience of local government.

Suggestions have been made to the NEC that standing orders should be changed to give local parties greater control over their Labour council groups. A review of standing orders is under way, and Labour Party organizations, including council groups, have until March 31 to reply.

The new association has received the support of more than 100 Labour groups, and intends to hold a national conference later in the year.

Photograph by John [illegible]

Mrs Alice Taylor and Mr Michael Bloor, two of a group who are occupying Latchmere swimming baths, Wandsworth, London, in a campaign to have their closure by the borough council reversed.

Heat will find enemy aircraft

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

British Aerospace [illegible] has won a contract from the Ministry of Defence to [illegible] a system that would [illegible] prove the detection of [illegible]ing enemy aircraft.

The system, known as [illegible] infrared surveillance, w[illegible] a partial replacement for [illegible] on which air defences [illegible] been based since the S[illegible] World War.

British Aerospace has [illegible] £3m on research, and ha[illegible] the contract against fierce [illegible]petition. It claims to be [illegible] of the rest of the world [illegible] the system.

Radar is vulnerable [illegible] latest kinds of electroni[illegible] ming equipment used [illegible] craft.

An infra-red system [illegible] give warning of appr[illegible] aircraft by detecting th[illegible] emission from its eng[illegible] simply through the fusel[illegible] cause it would send [illegible] signal itself, it could [illegible] detected by the aircraft.

British Aerospace clai[illegible] in a recent trial a pr[illegible] model located 96 per [illegible] incoming aircraft, m[illegible] which could then hav[illegible] destroyed by anti-aircr[illegible] siles like the Rapie[illegible]

The infra-red system [illegible] its operator only the [illegible] of an approaching airc[illegible] its range. That mea[illegible] some form of radar or [illegible] beam would have to [illegible] in conjunction with it [illegible] vide the range.

It is said that by [illegible] the pilot has realized [illegible] has been located it [illegible] too late for him to e[illegible]

The original work [illegible] project has been ca[illegible] at the electro-optics [illegible] ment of British A[illegible] Dynamics at Stevenag[illegible]

Inquiry after deat[h]

Gas board official[s] yesterday investigati[ng the] deaths of Mr Paul Her[illegible] 24, a fitter, and his wif[e] aged 22, of Normanb[y] Teesville, near Midd[illegible]

Dr Owen warns parties against unfair tactics

By Fred Emery, Political Editor

"Our attitude is not to provoke, but they may have to accommodate themselves to some rather awkward procedural problems."

That warning by the fledgling parliamentary committee of the Council for Social Democracy to the big parties in Parliament that bullying and possible denial of privileges and opportunities could be counterproductive was given yesterday by Dr David Owen at a launching press conference.

He did not spell it out, but the point was made that there could be some filibustering and all-night sessions if the social democrats were pressed too hard.

Dr Owen, the chairman, flanked by Mr William Rodgers, the organization chief, and Mr John Roper, the whip of what is clearly the steering committee of the party-in-formation, was in no mood to apologize.

He did not have to regret taking so long to leave the Labour Party, nor for the coming interregnum before setting up the new party.

He wanted his audience of newspaper sceptics to agree that they were all in the presence of "something strange, something different, something unique happening in British politics"—this "immense feeling" of millions of people in the country at large longing to vote them into government.

The social democrats would not sit as a group in the Commons, nor was it yet clear they would name specific spokesmen. The overall responsibility was divided as noted, with Mrs Williams responsible for communications and Mr Jenkins for policy coordination.

Did his speech about an incomes body represent policy? Well, no. "We want 1,000 flowers to bloom here", Mr Rodgers said.

The last thing they wanted was policy-making imposed from the top, he added. It was of vital importance to build a genuine democratic party in policy decision-making as with selection of proper candidates and leaders. That would take the time.

Both bristled when they were asked why they did not seek by-elections. Dr Owen said he would be delighted if anyone pointed out where he had departed from the last Labour Manifesto. Mr Rodgers asked how many Labour MPs were elected on the promise of a trade unionu block vote for the next prime minister. The social democrats, he said had been "constant in our affections, consistent in our opinions".

Dr Owen did not dwell long on arrangements with Liberals. The social democrats would seek to maximise agreements, not look for disagreements. Liberals and social democrats would keep their identities but the alliance was what mattered.

They intended to develop their new party nationally, including Northern Ireland, if possible. Dr Owen spoke of approaches from all over the country and of extraordinary responses at student meetings.

"It is our intention to be the government of this country", he added.

Meanwhile, the resignation of Mr Tom Bradley, MP for Leicester, East, from the Labour Party means that Mr Bernard Dix, left-wing assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, gains a place on the party's national executive committee.

He was runner-up to Mr Bradley in the trade unions division of the NEC election at the party conference in Blackpool last October.

MPs criticized: Four Labour left-wing Tribune Group MPs, Mr Arthur Davidson, Mr Frank Field, Mr Martin O'Neil and Mr Joe Ashton, were criticized by some of their colleagues last night for joining the recently formed "Solidarity Campaign" launched by more than 100 Labour MPs.

Mr Ian Mikardo, the Tribune Group chairman, said the group's general view was that the campaign was a right-wing organization.

Tory MEP attacks Mrs Castle's criticism of European Parliament expense

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

"Mrs Barbara Castle, the former Labour Cabinet minister, now member for Greater Manchester North, in the European Parliament, was the single most damaging export the United Kingdom has on its hands today", Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for West Strathclyde, told the Tory Reform Group at Cambridge University yesterday.

Referring to the recent conference between delegations from the European Parliament and from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in Freetown, he said that the Community's Third World partners were "unbelievably hurt" by the way the issues had been trivialized in Britain. He put the blame on Mrs Castle's "posturings".

That was a reference to Mrs Castle's insistence that the European delegation should not [illegible] unduly high expenses. There has been much criticism of the European Parliament's mission to South America, where one lunch cost £8,360.

Mr Fergusson said that the twice-yearly joint conference was the Brandt report in action. It was a "mini-parliament gathered to consider the Brandt report and the £3,300m of aid that changes hands".

Because of Mrs Castle, however, the issues discussed had not been publicized in Britain. "Due to her behaviour, the Sierra Leone meeting has just been a palm-fringed tropical extravaganza with which to divert or shock the public."

As far as the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were concerned, "she wrecked their conference, smeared the delegates, trivialized the issues, [illegible]

[illegible] and, for [illegible] advantage, [illegible] group in the massive [illegible] discussion to [illegible] matters of parliamentary [illegible] night [illegible] conscience [illegible] talking [illegible] have recourse to [illegible] presentation. [illegible] and it has [illegible] lies and misquoted by the Conservatives [illegible] not by the Africans [illegible] If Mr Fergusson considers [illegible] a triviality that I succeeded [illegible] in reducing the daily allowance [illegible] of European MPs by £20 a day [illegible] let him tell that to the [illegible] pensioners of Britain; tell it to [illegible] the African countries that it [illegible] does not matter, at a time when [illegible] our overseas aid is being cut [illegible] attack at the conference [illegible] on the Conservatives who [illegible] refused to vote for a resolution [illegible] which called for an oil embargo on South Africa.

Social democrats state their aims and say millions support them

The following statement was issued yesterday by Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr William Rodgers and Dr David Owen:

The Council for Social Democracy was established on Sunday, January 25, 1981, with the intention of rallying all those who are committed to the values, principles and policies of social democracy. The Limehouse Declaration said that the need for a realignment of British politics must be faced.

It is now clear that this view is shared by millions of people throughout Britain. We have received over 25,000 messages of support which express an overwhelming desire to be given the opportunity to vote at the next election for social democrats.

Many of those who have written have been active supporters of the Labour Party who are now disenchanted with it; some voted Conservative in the last election and are now disillusioned with Mrs Thatcher's policies; others have never been involved with any political party but see a new hope and inspiration in the Council for Social Democracy.

We plan to establish before Easter a new political party. This intention is clearly incompatible with our continuing membership of the Labour Party. We have therefore all now ceased to be members.

The 12 MPs who yesterday relinquished the Labour whip said in another statement:

Following discussions in our respective constituencies, we have decided to sit in Parliament as social democrats. We have ceased to be members of the Labour Party and have resigned the Parliamentary Labour Party Whip.

We will be members of the Parliamentary Committee of the Council for Social Democracy and will work with others to develop a social democratic manifesto.

The MPs are: Mr Tom Bradley, Leicester, East; Mr John Cartwright, Greenwich, Woolwich, East; Mr Richard Crawshaw, Liverpool, Toxteth; Mr Tom Ellis, Wrexham; Mr John Horam, Gateshead, West; Mr Robert Maclennan, Caithness and Sutherland; Dr David Owen, Plymouth, Devonport; Mr William Rodgers, Teesside, Stockton; Mr John Roper, Farnworth; Mr Neville Sandelson, Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington; Mr Mike Thomas, Newcastle upon Tyne, East; Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, Teesside, Thornaby.

The following letter was sent by nine former Labour peers to Mr Foot yesterday:

We, the undersigned members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, have today resigned the Labour Whip in the House of Lords. This step has not been taken lightly but with great sorrow.

You will recall that some of us were among the signatories to the letter sent to you before the Wembley conference in which we expressed dismay at the direction in which the party has been moving. The commitments at the October conference last year and then later at Wembley are not policies we can possibly support.

We feel that the party commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament is detrimental to our national defence. Whilst there are, and may continue to be problems within the EEC, to leave it now would be disastrous.

We cannot belong to a party which leaves the choice of a future Prime Minister of this country to an electoral college outside of Parliament. We believe that the election of the Leader of the Labour Party in the House of Commons—a potential Prime Minister—must remain solely in the hands of the members of the Labour Party in the House of Commons.

The peers are: Lord Aylestone; Lady Burton of Coventry; Lord Diamond, Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge; Lord Harris of Greenwich; Lord Kennet; Lord Walston; Lord Winterbottom and Lord Young of Dartington.

'Unity or war' choice for Liberals

By a Staff Reporter

A warning to Liberals that they must either join with social democratic rebels from the Labour Party or fight them in elections came yesterday from Mr Roger Pincham, Liberal Party chairman.

He said that without an alliance offering a common platform, a common basic manifesto, a common role of candidates and one leader, it was unthinkable that up to 200 Liberal associations would be willing or should be allowed to stand aside for another party's candidates.

Writing in Liberal Clarion, the publication of the Gladstone Club, he said such a sacrifice could not be contemplated. It would lead to a widespread reduction in the Liberal vote and the destruction of local organizations which had taken years to establish.

If voters were offered four main choices, with Liberals and social democrats competing, the result would be disastrous for both.

If a political realignment was not to be stillborn, the Liberal Party and the social democrats had to accept a common destiny and fuse their resources and organization.

Council is accused of waste and overstaffing

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Camden council, which is in trouble with the district auditor over what were deemed to be excessive payments to staff, was accused yesterday of gross waste, overstaffing and the overprovision of services in a report commissioned by the Camden Commercial Ratepayers' Group.

The report by Mr Alex Henney, says that Camden spends far more proportionately than any other council, despite the social need being less than in many other areas, and points to items of waste expenditure which might be cut by about a third, with no disadvantage to deprived people.

Mr Henney, former chief housing officer in Haringey, who has acted as a special housing adviser to the Department of the Environment, shows that spending per head in Camden was £491 this year, compared with £244 in the comparable borough of Westminster.

The report says that although there were some disadvantaged areas, Camden could not be considered a deprived inner borough. "It has fewer housing and social problems than many other boroughs and provincial cities. Camden generally ranks average thirteenth in terms of problem indicators among the 32 London boroughs and thirty-eighth in England."

Mr Henney says that Camden employs 40.4 workers per 1,000 population, compared with 30.4 in Islington, 28.4 in Westminster and an average 16 in England and Wales. "If all local authorities were staffed at the Camden level there would be another million and a quarter council employees."

During the past five years Camden's spending had increased by 32 per cent in real terms while local government expenditure as a whole had remained constant over the period, Mr Henney says.

He believes the reason for the high spending was that Camden has an enormous rate base, fourth highest in England, of which domestic rateable value accounted for only 24 per cent.

"Increases in expenditure are thus relatively imperceptible to the electorate, as compared with the national average situation, where domestic ratepayers pay for half of increases in councils' spending."

Mr Henney says that there was clear evidence of gross waste in such departments as planning and libraries, and in social services such as housing.

Furore over Labour manifesto expected

By Our Local Government Correspondent

[illegible] Greater [illegible] Labour [illegible] ceeded in [illegible] its 70,000 [illegible] the May [illegible] agenda fo[illegible] ing [illegible] of £2,200 to the London Council, the opposition has succ[illegible] having the whole of [illegible] word manifesto for [illegible] election printed in the [illegible] today's council meeting [illegible] to cause a furore [illegible] but Mr Andrew [McIntosh,] leader of the Labour group, yesterday defended the decision to have it printed in [illegible] that [illegible] a press conference [illegible] He thought it was unprecedented, [illegible] it was perfectly responsible [illegible] publish it. "We are very concerned that there should not be a gap after the election while the council's officers find out what the new [illegible] is doing."

Mr McIntosh, assuming that Labour would win the election from the present Conservative administration, said the running down of London's services in the last four years had been disastrous and Labour would build them up again. "If we [r]escue London's services [illegible] every day [illegible] lost is another day lost for Londoners."

The detailed manifesto, which [illegible] has been approved after a long consultation between members of the Greater Labour Party, concent[rates on] improving London T[ransport] (with a first intention [of cutt]ing fares by 25 per cent [in Sep]tember 1981), creating [illegible] jobs a year, and restor[ing] [illegible] in housing.

The party has costed [its] policies as far as possi[ble and] states that they could [illegible] to 16p in rates, or ano[ther illegible] a week for each house[hold in] 1983-84.

"We believe London[ers will] get good value for their [money] in the form of support [to the] London boroughs most [illegible], better public transpo[rt illegible] congestion, better hous[ing and] more and better job[s", the] manifesto says.

All Labour candidat[es have] supported the programm[e and] Mr McIntosh said he [did not] expect any defectors [to the] social democratic party [before] or after the election.

In a procedural amc[illegible] to Labour's introductio[n of the] manifesto, Sir Horace [Cutler,] leader of the council [said] that the rate increase f[rom the] policies could be 25p [with] more to come", and te[lls Lon]don ratepayers: "Yo[u have] been warned."

Four convicted of attack on cinema queue

Four youths were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of riotous assembly in Woolwich High Street, London, last March when a crowd of about 100 "skinheads" attacked a cinema queue of coloured people in revenge for the earlier stabbing of a white youth. Sentence was deferred for social reports.

Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, said that the group had marched down the street in military formation, with fists raised shouting "Sieg Heil", and carrying iron bars, knives and other weapons. What then took place was a race riot, she said.

The four are: Mark Giles, aged 18, of Dunblane Road, Eltham; Ian Barnard, aged 20, of Prospect Place, Belvedere; Gary Fuller, aged 19, of Fox Croft Road, Woolwich, and Anthony Skudder, aged 17, of Dupree Road, Charlton. All had denied riotous assembly.

Violence as West Indians march in fire protest

By Richard Ford

Seventeen policemen were injured and 23 people arrested yesterday when violence erupted during a protest march through central London by thousands of West Indians.

None of the policemen was seriously injured but six were detained in hospital suffering from head injuries. Motorists faced long delays as traffic jams built up throughout the afternoon. Peak-hour traffic was brought to a standstill in many parts of the West End and the City as the demonstrators marched to Hyde Park. Bus services were seriously disrupted.

Many roads were closed as blacks, protesting over the police handling of an investigation into a fire at Deptford, south London in which 13 people died, walked nine miles from New Cross to Speakers' Corner.

Outside the house in New Cross, where the blaze began at an all-night party six weeks ago, flowers were placed in remembrance as the protest began with the marchers holding banners declaring: "New Cross mass murder—police cover-up", "13 reasons for self-defence" and "British leaders incite racism".

Scotland Yard estimated that between three and four thousand people took part in the march which took the demonstrators through some of London's busiest roads including Fleet Street, High Holborn, Regent Street and Wigmore Street. But the organizers, the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, said there were more than six thousand people in the demonstration.

Police, some on horseback and others with riot shields, escorted the marchers into central London but the peaceful atmosphere turned to violence at Blackfriars where a group of youths at the front of the procession broke away and began hurling bricks and missiles at police. Three officers were injured when the windows of their vehicles were broken.

In Fleet Street, the windows of a jeweller's shop were smashed and valuables grabbed from display shelves. Scuffles broke out in Regent Street and police were bombarded with bottles in Wimpole Street. Trouble started again at the junction of Regent Street and Cavendish Square where police arrested a young West Indian.

The police needed reinforcements on horseback to control the surging demonstrators.

However when the demonstrators reached Hyde Park their spirits were dampened by torrential rain as they listened to speakers who addressed them from a lorry. One leader said: "I admit there were some black kids causing trouble but the police did not need to use their horses. Women and children were frightened and trampled. Policemen were also injured, but we do not condone it. It should never have happened".

Mr Kenneth Williams, a member of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, said the march had been peaceful for the most part. The route had been agreed with the police although they would have preferred to have marched by the Houses of Parliament. "It has caused some traffic problems and they were pretty big ones".

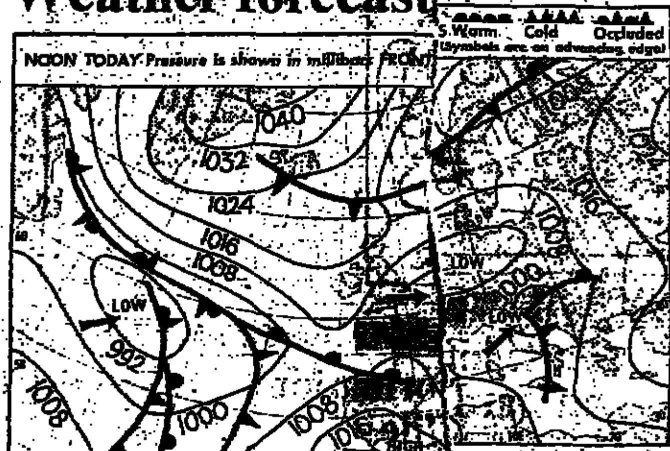
His view was probably shared by thousands of exasperated home-bound commuters.

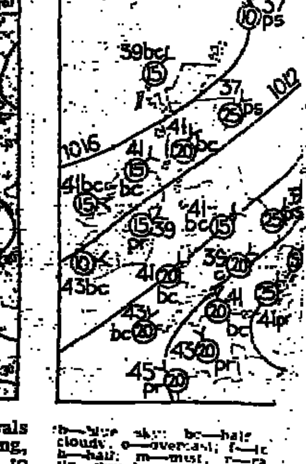
After the demonstration Mr John Radley, deputy assistant commissioner, said: "The three to four thousand who took part conducted themselves in a responsible manner.

"Unfortunately a number of trouble makers caused disorder at points along the route. This dissident element was responsible for a number of policemen being injured".

The march drew people from Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham and intended to show the anger of West Indians at what they allege was a racially motiviated attack on the house in Deptford, where the all-night party was taking place when the blaze started.

Weather forecast and recordings





Today

Sun rises: 6.42 am. Sun sets: 5.44 pm

Moon rises: 5.12 am. Moon sets: 2.08 pm

New Moon: March 6.

Lighting up: 6.14 pm to 6.10 am. High water: London Bridge, 11.27 am, 5.9m; 11.53 pm, 6.1m. Avonmouth, 4.32 am, 10.8m; 5.04 pm, 11.8m. Dover, 8.43 am, 5.5m; 9.10 pm, 5.8m. Hull, 4 am, 6.1m; 4.16 pm, 6.4m. Liverpool, 8.58 am, 8m; 9.28 pm, 8.1m.

1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft.

An area of low pressure near SE England will move E with a cold or NE airstream becoming established over Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S, E England, East Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain turning to sleet in places later; wind N or NE, fresh or strong; max temp 5° to 7°C (41° to 45°F) becoming colder.

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain with sleet on hills, slowly [illegible] some bright intervals [illegible] NE, fresh or strong, [illegible] later; max temp 4° to 6°C (39° to 43°F).

[illegible] Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, [illegible] Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Mainly dry, a few wintry [showers], sunny intervals; wind N [illegible] or fresh, falling later; max temp 3° to 5°C (37° to 41°F).

[illegible] N, NE England, Borders, [Edinburgh], Dundee, Aberdeen: [illegible] cloudy, scattered sleet or [snow] showers; wind NE, fresh or [illegible] becoming N moderate; max temp 2° to 4°C (36° to 39°F).

[illegible] Firth, NE, NW Scotland, [Orkney,] Shetland: Sunny intervals, a few wintry showers, [wind] light or moderate; max temp [3°] to 5°C (37° to 41°F).

[Outlook] for tomorrow and [Thursday]: Cold with night frosts, sleet or snow in the N; [illegible] becoming mostly dry but [illegible] reaching the SW on Thursday.

[Sea] passages: S North Sea, [Strait of Dover], English Channel (E): Wind N[E], [illegible] or fresh; sea slight or [moderate]. St George's Channel, [Irish Sea]: Wind NE, moderate or [illegible]; sea slight or moderate.

[illegible] b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. Temperature [illegible]

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 6 am, 6°C (43°F). [Humidity,] 6 pm, 82 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.26in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.6hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 998.3 millibars, rising.

1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	s	17	63	Cardiff	c	7	45
Algiers	c	18	64	Cologne	c	9	48
Amsterdam	r	8	46	Copenhagen	c	1	34
Athens	r	11	52	Dublin	c	7	45
Barcelona	f	15	59	Edinburgh	c	4	39
Beirut	c	12	54	Florence	c	6	43
Belfast	c	6	43	Funchal	f	17	63
Berlin	c	3	37	Geneva	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	f	15	59	Gibraltar	s	17	63
Birmingham	c	8	46	Guernsey	r	7	45
Bristol	r	7	45	Helsinki	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	c	8	46	Innsbruck	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Budapest	c	0	32	Istanbul	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

		C	F
Naples	c	16	61
New York	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nice	r	12	54
Oslo	f	-2	28
Paris	c	9	48
Rome	r	12	54
[illegible]	r	6	43
Stockholm	c	0	32
Venice	r	3	37
Vienna	c	1	34
Warsaw	c	0	32
[illegible]	c	11	52
Zurich	c	5	41

Overseas selling prices: Australia $2; Austria Sch [illegible]; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs [illegible]; Canada $1.50; Cyprus 450 mils; Denmark Dkr 5.60; Dubai Dhr 7.00; Finland [illegible]; France Frs 4.50; Germany [illegible]; Greece Dr 50; Holland [illegible]; Irish Republic IR 1.35; Iraq ID 0.500; [illegible]; Italy L 1100; Jordan [illegible]; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon [illegible]; Luxembourg Lf [illegible]; Madeira [illegible]; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir [illegible]; Norway Kr [illegible]; Oman OR [illegible]; Pakistan Rs 10; Portugal Esc [illegible]; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia [illegible]; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes [illegible]; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S frs [illegible]; Tunisia Din [illegible]; UAE [illegible]; Yugoslavia Din 40.

Published daily except Sundays [illegible] and Good Friday by Times Newspapers Ltd, [illegible] London [illegible]. All subscription rates [illegible]

Police are asked to investigate death of handicapped baby in hospital care

By Nicholas Timmins

Life, the anti-abortion organization, has asked police to investigate the death of a baby at Wycombe Hospital, Buckinghamshire, and to question Dr Hugh Jolly, consultant paediatrician at Charing Cross Hospital in London, after television programmes on the issue of whether severely deformed children should be allowed to die.

Mrs Nuala Scarisbrick, administrator of Life, said yesterday that Thames Valley police had been asked to investigate the death of a three-week-old girl whose case was discussed in a BBC Man Alive programme last Thursday.

In the programme, Dr Donald Garrow, a consultant paediatrician explained why treatment was withheld from the child, born with an encephalocele, in which brain tissue extended into a fluid-filled swelling on the head, who subsequently developed meningitis.

Hammersmith police are also being asked to interview Dr Jolly after Sunday night's ATV programme Live or Let Die in which he said that severely deformed children could be given only water, and if suffering, hypnotic drugs, if a decision was reached that the quality of its life would be so appalling it should not be helped to survive.

Police in London are investigating the death of Stephen Quinn, a spina bifida baby, at Charing Cross Hospital in September, 1979. That case too was brought to their attention by Life.

Mrs Scarisbrick said that if what Dr Jolly described was happening it would be illegal. "We have asked them to seize the case notes or records on neo-natal deaths in the special care baby unit and that where they find evidence of illegal killing they should ask the Director of Public Prosecutions to take action."

Whether parents were involved in the decisions, Mrs Scarisbrick said, allowing or helping a child to die was illegal.

'Observer' guarantee plan to be put to Lonrho

By Our Labour Staff

Representatives of the National Union of Journalists at The Observer are expected to meet the management of Lonrho today or tomorrow to put to them the guarantees they are seeking of continued editorial independence for the newspaper.

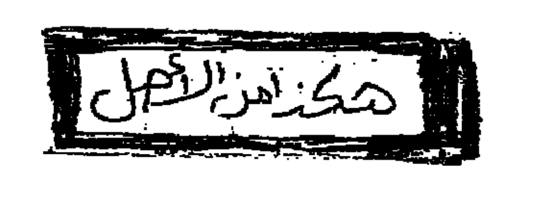
The union chapel will first meet to agree the terms of the written guarantees it wants from Lonrho, which has a conditional agreement with the present owners, Atlantic Richfield Corporation, to buy the title.

The Lonrho team at the meeting may include Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the company's chief executive, who addressed union members last week.

Mr William Keys, chairman of the TUC print industries committee said yesterday that he had written to Lonrho seeking an early meeting to discuss Mr Rowland's plans for the newspaper.

He added: "We believe that Mr Rowland should give undertakings on the editorial independence of The Observer not dissimilar to those that were given by Rupert Murdoch in the case of The Times."

Mr Keys said he had made the request for the meeting on behalf of all printing union leaders, who have made no secret of being dismayed that they were not consulted before the planned deal was announced.



Woman's career imperilled by false information at Yard

By Stewart Tendler

False information kept on Special Branch files about a young woman film-maker was disclosed to a potential employer and nearly ruined her career, BBC television's *Panorama* programme said last night.

The mistake was discovered only because the woman's father had been an officer at Scotland Yard and used his influence to find out what had happened. A senior member of the Special Branch apologized, adding that but for the intervention of the father *nothing* would have been done.

The case of Mrs Jan Martin was revealed in the second of two programmes on the work of Britain's espionage and intelligence services. Entitled "The Right to Privacy—the Need to Know", last night's programme foreshadowed the publication today of Lord Diplock's report on telephone tapping.

During the programme Mrs Martin said she first found out about the Special Branch file when she began work for Mr Michael Barratt, the television broadcaster, and his private film company. A prospective client, a building company, said that it would not want to employ her because it had found her to be a security risk.

Eventually Mrs Martin's father, a former detective chief superintendent, found that she had been placed on file after an innocent visit to Holland.

She and her husband were travelling through the country shortly after an incident involving the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group. They stopped at a restaurant and someone wrongly identified her husband as a well-known member of the gang. The couple's car was in Mrs Martin's name, and it was her name that went back to Scotland Yard for inquiries.

Mrs Martin said that she felt at one stage that her career was finished because the false information would dog her "If one company could get that information, then every other company could get it," she said.

Examining telephone tapping, the programme interviewed Mr Lee Tracey, who claims to have worked for the security services. Mr Tracey said that he carried out tappings, known as "black bag jobs", which were conducted by whatever means he could devise and without a warrant.

Mr Tracey said he did about 70 tappings a year in Britain, and overall about 500 to 600 during his career.

Mr Merlyn Rees, speaking of his time as Home Secretary in the last Labour Government, said all warrants for tapping were personally signed by him.

He said he accepted the dangers surrounding the gathering of information in the age of the computer. There was a need for some form of protection, although in the case of the police protection of privacy called for something other than a data protection group or a privacy Bill.

[illegible]d shop issu[illegible]n dis[illegible]ssals test [illegible]se

By Marc[illegible]llins
Legal Co[illegible]ondent

The ca[illegible]he three railwaymen di[illegible] by British Rail for refu[illegible]o join a union comes [illegible] the European Court of [illegible]n Rights in Strasbourg to[illegible] 2

They a[illegible]eking a decision by 21 jud[illegible]at their dismissal is a bre[illegible]f the European Conventio[illegible]Human Rigths.

In Jun[illegible]0, the European Commissi[illegible] Human Rights found th[illegible]re had been a contraven[illegible]of article 11 of the conv[illegible], which guarantees the [illegible] to freedom of association[illegible]cluding the right to form [illegible] to join trade unions".

The ra[illegible]men's claim is opposed b[illegible] British Government, rep[illegible]ed by Mr Ian Percival, [illegible] the Solicitor-General.

The F[illegible]m Association, which is b[illegible] the men, sees it as a tes[illegible] for the legality of the clos[illegible]p. But the commission's [illegible]n last June did not say th[illegible] closed shop as such was [illegible]ry to the convention.

The Go[illegible]ent is clearly embarrasse[illegible] the case. The men, Mr [illegible] Webster, Mr Noel James[illegible]Mr Iain Young, are compla[illegible] mainly about the Trade [illegible]n and Labour *Relations* [illegible] of 1974 and 1976, broug[illegible] by Labour.

The Co[illegible]tives opposed those laws [illegible] have, since coming to [illegible] in 1979, mitigated some[illegible] their harsher effects. The Employment Act, 1980, provides that dismissal for not joining a union where there is a closed shop shall be unfair if the worker has an objection on grounds of conscience or deeply held personal conviction.

The men are arguing that that does not go far enough. Although the new law might give them a claim for unfair dismissal, it would not give them their jobs back. They contend that the right to join a trade union under article 11 includes the right not to join a union.

If the court were to accept that reasoning, and make a judgment accordingly, it would mean that all closed shops would be contrary to the convention. Such a ruling would be a grave embarrassment to the Government, but it is extremaly unlikely that the court would go that far.

Mr Noel James leaving Victoria for Strasbourg yesterday.

Britain to sign treaty on computer data

By Frances Gibb

The Government is expected shortly to announce that Britain will sign the Council of Europe convention which provides safeguards for citizens against the misuse of personal information stored in computers.

The decision will be welcomed by industrialists, computer users, the medical profession and civil libertarians, all of whom have become increasingly concerned at lack of government action since the Lindop committee reported on data protection in 1978.

Although the signing commits Britain in principle to changing domestic law to bring it into line with the convention, in practice there is no parliamentary time this session for legislation to enable the Government to ratify the convention.

Mr Dudley Smith, Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington, who has been pressing the Government over its inaction, said yesterday he would welcome the signing. "This shows good faith. We ought to have been among the first to sign it."

He said he expected that among the legislation foreshadowed in the Queen's Speech at the beginning of the next parliamentary session would be a Bill on data protection.

"I and others will be using our very best endeavours to making sure that this comes about. If the Billl is not brought in at that stage, one starts running into difficulties over lack of time through being too close to a general election."

The British Medical Association said it would press for effective legislation to be introduced soon.

The convention, which was open for signing at the end of January, comes into force after five member-states have agreed to be bound by it. It has been signed by France, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg and Turkey.

Parties to it must not only ensure their domestic law enshrines its principles but also establish sanctions and remedies for violations of that law.

Revival hope for seven defunct arts magazines

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

The group of arts magazines which was forced to close when Hansom Books went into liquidation last autumn may be resurrected as the result of an offer to the liquidator from a Croydon printing company.

Dance and Dancers, *Music and Musicians*, *Plays and Players*, *Art and Artists*, *Books and Bookmen*, *Films and Filming* and *Records and Recording* collapsed after the death of the owner and founder of Hansom Books, Mr Philip Dossé, amod heavy debts incurred by the company.

It had been thought that the titles were doomed and efforts were made to launch substitute publications in several fields. However, Mr John Percival, an associate editor of *Dance and Dancers*, who was involved in a scheme to produce a new dance magazine, said the printing company, which he could not name, was negotiating to buy all the titles.

He said the Croydon company had made a conditional offer, which had been accepted. One condition was that a sufficient number of the former editorial staff of the magazines would collaborate in the new venture.

Efforts were being made to get in touch with the various writers, who have dispersed since the collapse of Hansom Books.

Mr Percival said that as far as *Dance and Dancers* was concerned, the staff would almost certainly cooperate.

16 police officers accused

Sixteen police officers and four garage directors appeared in court at Hertford yesterday on a total of 65 corruption charges.

Their appearance follows an investigation into allegations that garages made improper payments to motorway patrolmen for calling them to breakdowns.

The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1977 and last May, while the officers, who include one woman, were based at Garston Park, Hertfordshire. The accused garage directors come from St Albans, Hemel Hempstead and Leavesden Green.

The case was adjourned until June 8, when committal proceedings are expected to start.

Pressure for equality in midwifery

By Lucy Hodges

The Government is coming under increasing pressure to give men the same opportunities as women to become midwives, as is stipulated in directives drawn up by the EEC.

Last week Mr Roland Boyes, Labour MEP for Durham, took up the case of a man who has been trying to become a midwife for the past five years.

Mr Norman Imms, of Peterlee in Durham, telephoned his local maternity hospital recently to ask for midwife training in view of the EEC rules.

He was rejected by Sunderland maternity hospital on the grounds that he was a man and that the only places allowed to take men, under the Department of Health and Social Security's regulations, were a hospital in London and a hospital in Scotland.

Mr Boyes in a letter to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, says it is discriminatory and unjust that Mr Imms should have to uproot his family and travel either to London or Scotland for midwifery training.

At the same time Mr Boyes wrote to the legal division of the EEC for its opinion.

Mr Boyes is hoping that the EEC will put enough pressure on the Government to change the law and if necessary take the United Kingdom to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. If the EEC does not do this Mr Imms is prepared to go to court himself.

Government pledge on BR policy

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

The Government has no intention of closing loss-making railways and substituting buses, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, said last night.

But substitution was the policy of the previous administration but the Government's policy was to make the railways more effective, he said in Granada Television's *World In Action* programme on Britain's decaying railways.

Transport economists had earlier criticized British Rail's huge subsidies as "financial suicide" for the Government, and a transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

According to a study carried out for Granada, more than half British Rail's fare revenue comes from the wealthiest fifth of the population. Only 13 per cent of fares come from the poorer 40 per cent.

"The railways are used by richer people", Professor Christopher Foster, who helped draft Labour's Transport Act, 1968, said. "The poor have given up using them." Rail subsidies therefore go to the richer sections of the community, such as commuters around London, he said.

Both track and rolling stock are decaying at an alarming rate, according to internal British Rail studies quoted in the programme. More than 500 miles of track renewal is overdue, and it will take a hundred years to replace the existing diesel locomotive fleet at present rates.

Nurse was battered before alleged fall, doctor says

The death of Miss Helen Smith, a British nurse, in Saudi Arabia in May, 1979, was not accidental, according to a report from a Danish pathologist commissioned by her father, Mr Ronald Smith.

The nurse was said to have fallen from a sixth-floor balcony at a flat in Jiddah where Mr Richard Arnot, a British surgeon, and his wife, Penelope, were holding an illegal drinks party.

The report, by Professor Jørgen Dalgaard, compiled after a private post-mortem examination, concludes that Miss Smith had sexual intercourse before her death and that she was battered before the alleged fall.

The report says Miss Smith, from Leeds, suffered severe injuries all over her body and [illegible] "She further displayed [illegible] around the thighs, prob[illegible] to sexual activity of a [illegible]tely rough character." [illegible]ad an injury on the left [illegible] of her head which caused brain haemorrhage, and which could have been the cause of death.

The professor concludes: "The widespread blunt injuries [illegible] the face, body and extremities could not be accidental or suicidal but must be attributed [illegible] blunt violence extended by one or more persons before the alleged fall. The results of this autopsy thus confirm the suspicions of a non-accidental death."

According to the report, there were widely distributed injuries of a mild to severe nature on Miss Smith's body, arms and legs, but they were apparently not "life-threatening".

The professor added that marks on her body were consistent with a fall on her right side from a moderate height, but were not consistent with a fall from 70ft on to a marble floor.

"This means that a fall from the sixth floor balcony can be excluded whereas a fall from a moderate height, maybe only a few feet, appears consistent with the findings".

Mr Smith, a former policeman, said last night: "This report confirms my initial suspicions that the Foreign Office is keeping the true details of the death secret. I now think the only way that the truth can be revealed is through a parliamentary select committee inquiry."

A police investigation on behalf of the Leeds Coroner has been conducted. A decision on an inquest is expected soon.

[illegible]ouncil to close sixth form [illegible]ollege despite protest

[illegible] Our Education [illegible]respondent

[illegible]he Government has decided [illegible] allow Harrow Borough [illegible]ncil to close Pinner Sixth [illegible]m Colege, despite the pro[illegible]s of thousands of parents [illegible] other supporters. It will be [illegible] first maintained sixth-form [illegible]ege in the country to close.

[illegible]arow Council set up five [illegible]leges seven years ago to [illegible]vide sixth-form education [illegible] 16 to 18 year olds in the [illegible]ough. However, the falling [illegible]mber of secondary school [illegible]pils, combined with a [illegible]aller than expected increase [illegible] the number of pupils choos[illegible] to stay on in full-time education after 16, has led to unfilled places.

"We really could not justify keeping five colleges open", Mr Graham Hines, chairman of the council education committee, said yesterday. "Pinner was chosen for closure because it had fewer pupils putting it as their first choice than the other colleges."

A petition containing 19,000 signatures and 140 letters containing a further 5[illegible]0 signatures were sent to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, appealing to him not to give his approval to the college's planed closure in August, 1982.

Airline asks unions for 1,100 job cuts

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

British Airways, which faces losses of about £100m over the current financial year, has told union officials it wants cuts of more than 10 per cent among engineering and maintenance staff over the next 13 months.

Detailed proposals outlined to the unions, who claim that engineering and maintenance staffs have been cut so far from 11,000 to 9,000, involve the further loss of about 1,100 personnel, including 800 skilled craftsmen.

The proposals have come to light at the same time as the separate annual pay negotiations which the financially troubled state airline is conducting with all staff. They are part of a publicly declared redundancy programme which management began 18 months ago.

Overall, the programme also involves a planned 16 per cent reduction in clerical administrative areas, and a 300 cut in management personnel. British Airways emphasized that previous reductions have been achieved without compulsory redundancies.

Under the programme the airline is scheduled to reduce staff totals to 52,600 by this month. By December, 1980, it had effected a 7 per cent reduction to 54,000 from the August, 1979, total of 58,000.

In the case of engineering and maintenance staff union officials are likely to argue that it may be difficult for them to achieve the job losses without compulsory redundancies.

Meanwhile, union officials representing 20,000 engineering and ground services staff are expected to consider their next step on Thursday after rejection by their neotiators of a pay offer.

The state airline has warned the unions that it will not raise its 8 per cent offer, delayed for three months from the normal starting date in January, and a corresponding increase in shift premiums from July.

Shop stewards successfully led a one-day strike at Heathrow on January 23 in protest at the offer, but pulled back from a second stoppage on February 20 after late night pay talks.

At present engineering and maintenance stewards are strongly resisting the offer, but it was thought that those representing at least some of the ramp and ground services staff may be leaning towards a settlement.

Representatives of about 16,000 staff are also to consider what is believed to be a recommendation for acceptance of a broadly similar offer.

Barrister fights tax ruling on clothes expenses

Miss Ann Mallalieu, aged 35, a barrister, went to court yesterday to appeal against a tax commissioners' ruling that she was not entitled to tax relief on the cost of her work wardrobe, black dresses, white blouses, black shoes and tights.

Miss Mallalieu, a blonde, had told the commissioners that black did not suit her colouring and that she always wore more fashionable clothes outside work.

They had dismissed her claim for relief on the ground that her work clothes could be worn at any time.

Mr Andrew Park, QC, for Miss Mallalieu, asked Mr Justice Slade in the High Court, London, to quash the commissioners' decision.

The issue was a running sore between lawyers and the Inland Revenue, he said. Barristers were allowed relief on the cost of replacing wigs and gowns, but not on the rest of their "uniform"

Many were awaiting the outcome of the case with interest.

Bar Council rules are that barristers must wear unobtrusive dark clothes, with white shirts or blouses. Women are advised to draw their hair back and up under their wigs and refrain from wearing conspicuous jewelry.

A judge may refuse to hear a barrister whom he thinks is improperly dressed.

Mr Park said Miss Mallalieu would find it impossible to practise if she did not comply with the rules.

The hearing of her claim, which is expected to last two days, continues today.

Sir Derek Rayner surrounded by his strengthened team of Whitehall efficiency scrutineers. Photograph by Harry Kerr

Whitehall brief: Much bureaucratic blood spilt at No 10 in clash with Civil Service chief

Sir Derek Rayner asked to stay on in cost-cutting role

By Peter Hennessy

The main news about Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, and the Prime Minister's part-time adviser on the elimination of waste, is that he is still there running his tiny staff from a suite in the Cabinet Office. Originally it was intended that he would be succeeded about now by a more permanent arrangement and allowed to return full time to his private sector employer.

The Prime Minister's office seems to have contemplated searching for a successor, but Mrs Margaret Thatcher asked him to stay on as her main instrument for curbing the proliferation of central government.

"Familiar faces are comforting and they could not identify an outside candidate with my background", he explains.

Sir Derek and the Prime Minister have reached a compromise. He will remain as a non-executive overseer of the reforms he has launched while, during the next 18 months, his involvement in Whitehall will be gradually reduced. To compensate for his more frequent absence, his team under the day-to-day guidance of Mr Clive Priestley, his chief-of-staff, has been strengthened.

The additions are Mr Ian Beesly, a chief statistician on secondment from the Government Statistical Service, and Dr Elizabeth Thoms, a higher executive officer (A) on loan from the Civil Service Department whose PhD was won by a study of squinting infants. They complement Sir Derek's original corps of Mr Priestley, a career administrator, and Mr David Allen, a member of the Government Economic Service.

Last week the Rayner team treated it almost as a personal affront when reminded that since Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister in May, 1979, the cost of running central government has risen from £6,800m to £8,300m, an increase of 22 per cent. They swiftly pointed out that thanks to the scrutiny programme of efficiency studies carried out by departments under Sir Derek's supervision, that growth was under attack.

The 29 scrutinies completed in 1979 identified economies of £67m and £23m in once-and-for-all savings. All but one of the 39 scrutinies of 1980 are complete and the savings should be even greater than the first tranche.

For 1981, 35 departmental scrutinies are planned in addition to the two trans-Whitehall investigations of support staff for research establishments and form-filling announced last week.

Since last speaking on the record to *The Times* in August, Sir Derek has acquired a battle scar which he makes no attempt to disguise. If he had had his way, his team would no longer be in the Cabinet Office but down the road in a new ministry devoted to achieving greater efficiency and economy and created by the disbandment of the Civil Service Department and the integration of its functions into the Treasury.

"I did lose. I have not been persuaded I am wrong. I have not changed my mind. I am not uptight like a small child. I am going to do my best to make the new arrangement work", Sir Derek says in a manner far more genial than his statement appears in cold print.

Sir Derek compensated for his rare failure to secure total prime ministerial support by forcing changes in a bland first draft of last month's White Paper on *The Future of the Civil Service Department*.

He will not talk about it, but it is clear from several sources that there was much bureaucratic blood on the carpet in No 10 after a final and now almost legendary drafting meeting attended by Sir Derek and Sir Ian Bancroft, Head of the Home Civil Service, with the Prime Minister acting as referee.

As a result, the Civil Service Department still lives but it has a fixed set of objectives against which its performance can be measured and a number of reforms dear to Sir Derek's heart, like the need to ensure that future permanent secretaries know how to run the money and manpower side as well as the policy making in a ministry, have been publicly accepted by the Government.

When asked to list his greatest failure to date Sir Derek replies: "When one is dealing with longer term changes, like the shape of the central departments, the Civil Service is still reluctant to push ahead with things where you cannot immediately demonstrate the validity of the argument."

About his greatest success he has no doubt: "I have proven to my own satisfaction that the Civil Service has got the talent needed to bring about changes. As individuals they have responded extremely well to what they have been asked to do."

Why as individuals and not as departments? Sir Derek laughs and declines to reply.

Helicopter jailbreaker shoots two police near Belgian border

Estaimpuis, March 2.—A man who wounded two gendarmes near the Franco-Belgian border today has been identified as one of the prisoners who escaped by helicopter from the French prison of Fleury-Merogis last Friday, police sources said.

A third gendarme, taken hostage by two men in a car with French licence plates, was released shortly afterwards.

The sources said the gendarme positively identified one of the car occupants as Gerard Dupré who was plucked from the prison in the first ever helicopter escape in French history.

The two gendarmes had stopped the car for a routine identity check when the occupants threatened them with guns trying to take them hostages, the sources said.

In the ensuing struggle shots were fired and one of the gendarmes was injured in the face. A third gendarme who tried to come to their help was hit by a bullet in the chest. The car then drove off with one of the gendarmes. He was released a few miles farther on.

Throughout the weekend Belgian police had been patrolling the border area because French police had tipped them off that M Dupre's brother, Georges, who lives in Belgium, had been visiting him in the Fleury-Merogis prison a few weeks before the escape.

M Dupré, who was serving a long sentence for armed robbery, escaped with Daniel Beaumont, also serving a long sentence for a similar crime.

Two of the accomplices hired a helicopter at Issy-les-Moulineaux, South of Paris, and then hijjacked it, forcing the pilot to fly to the prison. Swooping over the walls of the star-shaped prison, the helicopter landed in a courtyard where inmates were playing football. There were no warders in sight.

The two prisoners quickly jumped into the helicopter and it took off within 30 seconds of landing before warders could sound the alarm.

Police said the pair could have been inspired by an American film, the *Breakout*, about a similar helicopter escape which was shown recently on French television.

The helicopter pilot, well known for his work with French film crews to film from his craft, was questioned yesterday and today by French police. They showed him more than 400 photographs but he could not identify the two men who rented his helicopter.

After the prison break, the first in France from the air police reinforced security on the frontiers and closely watched airports and railway stations.

Lille police said that after the report from Belgium of the shooting and seizure of the Belgian gendarmes, French police dispatched more reinforcements to the Franco-Belgian frontier.—UPI.

King helped save democracy

Old guard in Spain failed to win support

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 2

Spain's military coup failed last week because of King Juan Carlos's leadership and because all the remaining influential social groups were opposed to an "old guard" representing the Franco regime, Professor Manuel Tunon de Lara, the country's best known left-wing contemporary historian, writes in today's *Diario 16*, the Madrid daily newspaper.

"In July, 1936, the ruling classes were in conflict with the Popular Front and those who staged the uprising could count on very important support", Professor Tunon says. "But last week the big banks, the big employers and the Catholic Church headed a majority of the country against those staging the coup."

Last Monday, however, many ordinary Spaniards could not see any difference. "After a terrible night pinned to the news on the radio we decided to go to Andorra", the woman who comes to clean my flat recounted. She had gone to the bank early on Tuesday morning to draw out her savings. As a young girl she remembered fleeing from Spain with her family towards the end of the civil war.

A girl student from Barcelona said: "Suddenly an official entered the library where I was reading and shouted 'the library is closing now—there's been a coup'. We were all bundled out shocked, frightened, and wondering whether we would find tanks firing in the streets."

Both of these women attended Friday's mass demonstrations in defence of democracy in Madrid, when more than a million people turned out according to the police, and in Barcelona.

Young people were conspic[illegible]ous at all the demonstratio[illegible] even though left-wing parti[illegible] had been worried that th[illegible] participation in elections la[illegible] year was often disproportic[illegible]ately low.

Many are now eviden[illegible] among the most concerned th[illegible] there may be a repetition [illegible] the coup attempt if the puni[illegible]ment of the plotters pro[illegible] lenient.

Older, middle-class peop[illegible] less identified perhaps wi[illegible] democracy, suspected the le[illegible] would not accept the takeov[illegible] lying down and feared bloo[illegible]shed disrupting their lives. Th[illegible] reaction could be as importa[illegible] as that of younger people. F[illegible] the unwillingness of broad se[illegible]tions of the Spanish people [illegible] face potential civil war cou[illegible] if sufficiently manifest, be [illegible] deterrent to any right-wi[illegible] army plotters.

The absense of people [illegible] right-wing, conservative vie[illegible] lamenting in private that [illegible] coup attempt failed has a[illegible] been very striking.

Many people went to b[illegible] reassured after hearing [illegible] King's television address ea[illegible] on Tuesday. Booking air ti[illegible] shortly after the coup was o[illegible] of the King's ablest psyc[illegible]logical moves.

The question most exercisi[illegible] public opinion now is how a further coup attempt can [illegible] prevented. Señor Leopold Cal[illegible] Sotelo, the new Prime Minist[illegible] has promised that the int[illegible]ligence agency will be inve[illegible]gated.

The King has already advis[illegible] the politicians and the me[illegible] that they should not indulge [illegible] generalized criticism of t[illegible] army and so make things wor[illegible]

Dirty protest ends at Maze jail

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

In an abrupt change of tactics, Republican terrorists inside the Maze prison, near Belfast, have stopped fouling their cells for the first time in three years.

A statement from the Republican press centre in west Belfast said the aim was to focus attention on the hunger strike by Robert Sands, which began on Sunday in support of five demands: no prison work, no prison clothing, more visits and mail, free association with other prisoners at all times, and restoration of lost remission.

There were 411 prisoners involved in the "dirty" protest at the Maze when the announcement was made. The 28 women at Armagh jail have also ended their dirty protest after 11 months.

Outside the jail, it has become clear that the Provisional IRA has also changed tactics. Sources indicate that the virtual ending of violence during the 53-day fast last year will not be repeated.

Although the dirty protest has ended, several hundred prisoners will continue to cover themselves in blankets instead of wearing prison clothes.

The foul form of protest has never appealed to the Irish and some republican sympathizers believe it has been counter-productive.

Hill walker's body identified as that of man who faked 1980 beach suicide

From a Staff Reporter
Inverness

The body of a hill walker who died accidentally in Skye last week was identified yesterday as that of a man thought by police to have drowned off the south coast of England 10 months ago.

The procurator fiscal at Portree confirmed that the body was that of Keith Greenfield-Hunter, aged 29, who died from exposure in the Cuillin Hills last Thursday and who had been using the name of Keith Tate.

Nearby was the body of Alison Willis, aged 26, who died of multiple injuries in a fall. The procurator fiscal said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Mrs Sally Greenfield-Hunter identified her husband's body yesterday in the mortuary at Inverness.

The man using the name Tate was found to have a passport and other documents in the name of Greenfield-Hunter.

Mr Greenfield-Hunter disappeared from his home at Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, last April. His car and clothing were found at a beach in Dorset and it was believed that he had committed suicide.

But the passport showed that since his disappearance, Mr Greenfield-Hunter had been to the United States of America, France and Israel.

The Hampshire police disclosed yesterday that before his disappearance Mr Greenfield-Hunter had been placed on bail by Wichester magistrates on two charges of stealing antique books worth £278. A week after his appearance for a further remand at Winchester his clothes and car were found at the edge of the sea.

Keith Greenfield-Hunter: 'Indescribably tragic figure.'

Mr Keith Hunter, as he was known, began studying for a bachelor of education degree in geography in September, 1979, at King Alfred's College, Winchester. After three months he dropped the geography course and took up religious studies.

Police said yesterday that since last July he had lived under the name of Tate, working at a youth hostel in the Lake District. Miss Willis had also worked at a hostel

"Tragic figure": Mr David Cox, who said he was a fellow Christian who had lived with the couple in Keswick, said in a BBC *World at One* radio interview that he had been in touch with their parents (the Press Association reports).

He described his friend as a "loving and lovable personality who was also an indescribably tragic figure".

"He and his wife were involved in a series of car accidents none of which were the fault of either partner.

"The effect of these and other misfortunes was, it seems, to pursuade Keith that his wife and other relatives would be better off without him.

"He therefore faked his own death and disappeared in April last year, taking on a new identity.

"The relationship between Keith and Alison, who died with him in Skye, was a chaste friendship and this has been verified extensively. Alison was totally unaware of any deception".

The Rev Gerald Cunliffe, curate of St Peter's Church, Pembury, said that after Mr Greenfield-Hunter had disappeared his wife, Barbara, lived in hope that he would eventually return.

Miss Susan Gammon, the daughter of the hostel warden, said that Mr Greenfield-Hunter had said nothing about his background and he was a very evasive man.

In brief

Former detective denies corruption

John Symonds, a former Metropolitan Police detective, pleaded not guilty to three charges of corruption, involving a total of £50, at Teesside Crown Court yesterday.

The charges allege that Mr Symonds corruptly accepted or obtained £50 on three occasions in 1969 as a reward for showing favour to a man involved in an arrest. He was remanded in custody. Legal arguments are expected to occupy the next two days of the trial.

EEC to reconsider 44-ton lorries

The EEC is to reconsider the issue of heavy lorries after objections by Britain and other members to draft proposals for a 44-ton maximum.

There is no possibility of the existing proposals being adopted in their present form, Mr Kenneth Clarke, parliamentary secretary to the Department of Transport, wrote to Lord Bethell, MEP for north-west London.

Missing cobalt report

Mr Keith Speed, Under Secretary of Defence for the Royal Navy made a flying visit to Rosyth dockyard yesterday and returned with the Board of Inquiry report into the radio-active cobalt cylinder missing at the Polaris submarine base. He would study the report before making his Commons statement today, he said.

Suffolk oil slick

Clearance began yesterday of 20 miles of Suffolk coastline between Kessingland and Thorpeness affected at the weekend by an oil slick which has caused the death of many birds.

Flat fare of 10p

A flat-fare bus ticket of 10p for any distance in the West Midlands is being tried every Monday for the next few weeks. The experiment started yesterday.

Radiation check

Radiation teams were called in yesterday when a lorry carrying nuclear waste overturned on the Whitehaven to Barrow road outside the Windscale nuclear works in Cumbria, but found the load intact.

Aerial greetings case

Mr Bryan Bateson, a flying instructor, of Wrea Green, near Preston, is being prosecuted by the Department of Trade for allegedly towing an 80ft birthday greeting to his wife behind his aircraft.

Boy dies in fall

Joseph Cooper, aged 15, who disappeared from his home in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, over the weekend, was found dead yesterday by workers at an engineering factory, having apparently fallen through the roof.

Boxer fined £5

Chris Finnegan, aged 36, the former British and European light heavyweight boxing champion, and his cousin Mr Dominique Finnegan, aged 33, a painter, were each fined £5 yesterday for being drunk in the West End of London.

Large fines 'putting soccer fans in jail'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Football hooligans were being sent to prison because they could not pay the large fines imposed on them by the courts, Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said yesterday.

Mr Steel was giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on the difficulties caused by a rising prison population.

Referring to security, Mr David Evans, the union's assistant secretary, disclosed that some prisoners at Gartree maximum security prison in Leicestershire had been able to knock their fists through a wall to get into another cell.

Mr Steel thought, however, that some prisoners' security categories could be downgraded so they might be put into existing camps that had been converte dinto prisons.

Mr Evans said of fire risks that there had been several outbreaks in the past 10 years. It was remarkable there had been no loss of life. Many night patrols, men who were not full-time prison officers but were recruited locally, were too old

Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, was concerned about the cost of the "proliferation of padres" in prisons. Asked if he could confirm there was a prison with six padres, Mr Steel said he knew only of establishments where there were two.

Man guilty of robberies involving £2m

Four men were jailed for a total of 52 years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday and one pleaded guilty to charges said to involve the theft of nearly £2m in property and cash.

He is Mr Ronald Johnson, aged 33, of Holloway, north London, who admitted six robberies, and asked for 119 other robberies and burglaries to be considered. He was jailed for 15 years.

Mr John Kennedy, aged 31, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to seven robberies, including snatching £500,000 in gems from International Diamond Sales at the Savoy Hotel's shopping arcade in June, 1978. He asked for 33 other offences to be considered, and was jailed for 15 years.

Mr John Hammond, aged 36, of Bath Street, City of London, admitted eight robberies and one charge of wounding, and asked for 12 other offences to be taken into consideration. He, too, was jailed for 15 years.

Mr George Jones, aged 42, of Mill Hill, north London, was jailed for seven years after pleading guilty to two robberies. He asked for four other offences to be considered.

Mr Johnson, described by Det Supt Anthony Lundy as the brains behind many of the robberies, was said to have spent his proceeds on gambling.

Mr Timothy Cassell, for the prosecution, said Mr Kennedy and Mr Hammond were arrested after a security guard was shot in a bank raid in Finchley, north London, last year.

Spaces in places where planners once roamed

Regional report

Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Some who claim to care about the environment are apt to describe Edinburgh as the holey city. The Scottish capital has more than its proper share of gaps, holes in the ground and razed zones where years ago bulldozers were busy knocking things down but where nothing has happened. Some development sites that never developed are now famous in a negative way, as spaces worth watching. The Opera House, the international conference centre, hotels, office blocks and markets were all at one stage or another expected to rise from flattened sites that remain stubbornly and forlornly empty.

Of course, the planners cannot win. So many of the buildings that have gone up have been shot down, the leading example being the St James Centre complex, aspects of which make Alcatraz look quite bijou.

Mr Ronald Guild, indefatigable spokesman on the environment for the Scottish Liberal Party, has an immense portfolio of information about idle land that could be earning a living, or at least looking less of an eyesore than it does. He also has lists of buildings threatened by the creeping demolition that decades of neglect incurs, and which needs only one nudge from a bulldozer to complete.

He said: "There are many sites around Edinburgh which have suffered in this way from every kind of blight, for which plans have been drawn up only to fall down."

The latest example is the decision to abandon development of the site in the Royal Mile which the Cockburn Association, one of the city's principal watchdogs, describes as probably the most important undeveloped site in any historic city in Europe.

The hole first appeared 15 years ago after a group of eighteenth century tenements had been demolished. Recently it seemed that a combined office block and shopping centre was to rise there, but for various reasons the developer, the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund, withdrew. The decision not to set up a Scottish assembly has apparently left Edinburgh with a glut of office space.

Probably the brightest sign that parts of the old town are emerging from a dark age of planning blight can be seen on the South-side, behind the extensive scaffolding in Nicolson Street. The district council's local plan admitted woefully that after 30 years of considerable planning activity there had been little result. Large swathes of the old town lay under weeds because of a proposal to run a new road through the area to take pressure off the city centre. The road, like so much else had been abandoned.

Meanwhile, the Crown Estate Commissioners have made their first major acquisition of an urban site in Scotland by investing in the Nicolson Street pilot scheme, helping out the district council which had not only lost the fight to drive a road through the area but had run short of funds.

A small part of the £2.5m cost of the redevelopment will come from dues received by the commissioners from oil pipelines which cross the foreshore from the North Sea.

Purists among the conservation lobby criticize some of the fine detail, but there is no doubt that this row of revitalized buildings has set an example for the area behind. "It was a pilot scheme in the sense that it would lead others to follow and this is happening", a commissioners' spokesman said. A private development has begun behind Nicolson Street, people are moving back into the area, and the old town has not seen so much fresh paint, construction and hope for many years.

Andalusia agrees to plan for regional autonomy

Madrid, March 2.—Parliamentarians from Andalusia have agreed on plans to give home rule to the impoverished southern region under Spain's devolution scheme.

They voted yesterday for a statute of autonomy that would give the region, plagued by acute unemployment, powers similar to those already granted to the Basque country, Catalonia and north-western Galic[illegible]

The statute will be submitt[illegible] to the Madrid Parliament whi[illegible] is expected to pass it.

Under home-rule plans, th[illegible] Basque country and Catalon[illegible] last year elected regional parli[illegible]ments and formed autonomou[illegible] governments. Galicia approve[illegible] home-rule plans in a referendu[illegible] last year but still has to ele[illegible] its parliament.—Reuter.

Italian politicians learn to take pensioners seriously

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 2

The Chamber of Deputies approved late last night a Finance Bill which covers the whole of state spending but was of interest mainly because of the rivalry among the parties to help old age pensioners.

For the first time, the pensioners became an important issue. Towards the end of last week, there were fears that differences about better pensions might bring down Signor Arnaldo Forlani's argumentative coalition.

But the Prime Minister knew where to retreat and the Communist Opposition had no intention of seeing the Government fall. At the end of the special session last night, 326 voted in favour of the Bill and 237 against.

The Finance Bill has still to go to the Senate, but as far as public opinion is concerned it has accomplished two advances: basic pensions have been raised and they will be revised every four months in the light of changes in the cost of living index instead of every six months.

This decision places the pensioners ahead of the working population whose index-related system of increases comes into effect once every six months.

The essential point is not so much that the pensioners have suddenly been placed in a vanguard position but that the politicians have recognized their political importance. Some 18 million pensions are paid in Italy, an average of at least one for every family.

A century ago young people up to the age of 29 were three times as numerous as those aged over 60: today the younger people have an advantage of just about two and a half million and in 10 years' time the forces will be equally balanced with a preponderance of the elderly in 2001.

Given that the Western economy is expected to turn increasingly to high technology, leaving to the Third World many of the traditional industries, the older people will be able to continue longer in the work force because experience and skill will be of greater value than physical strength.

The estimated deficit this year of the main state pension fund will be some 17,721m lire (£8,750m) which is expected to be more than double in two years' time.

dnap fears Spain ver missing footballer

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, March 2

Police set up a nationwide search today for a popular football player, Joaquin Castro, known to fans as "Quini", who disappeared on Sunday night in Barcelona. It is believed he may have been kidnapped.

Officials of the Barcelona club, for which he plays, said they had no knowledge of threatening letters which, some sources claimed, several players had received.

Señor Castro was due to have picked up his wife at Barcelona airport last night after his team's regular league match, but he failed to arrive.

When his wife returned to their home, she found the radio and television turned on, but her husband and his car—a whisky-coloured Ford Granada—were missing. Police found the car in another part of Barcelona today.

'Quini' Castro: Disappeared in Barcelona on Sunday.

For reasons which have not been explained, the footballer's absence was not formally reported to police until about noon, although a fellow player, advised by Señor Castro's wife that he was missing, told the police early this morning that the player's car had disappeared.

In Gijon, northern Spain, the missing player's brother, Jesus Castro, who is also a professional footballer, said he had no knowledge of any ransom demand, but he feared that his brother had been kidnapped.

Last January Señor Luis Suner, a prominent Spanish industrialist, was seized from his office near Valencia, on Spain's east coast and about 220 miles south of Barcelona.

Anonymous telephone callers claimed he had been kidnapped by the ETA organization but police were sceptical and suspected that common criminals were involved, rather than political activists. Señor Suner is still missing and his family claim that no ransom demand has been received.

In two other recent Spanish kidnap cases, the ETA abducted a nuclear engineer and murdured him when their demand for the destruction of a nuclear plant under construction near Bilbao was ignored by the authorities.

In another case, the consuls of Austria, El Salvador and Uruguay in the Basque country were released last Saturday when the ETA political-military wing announced its intention of seeking a ceasefire.

Earthquake speeds up plans for large-scale repairs to Parthenon

From Mario Modiano
Athens, March 2

The Greek Archaeological Service has decided to speed up its plan for a corrective operation on the Parthenon, because of the distiurbance caused by last week's powerful earthquake in Athens.

The shock caused the entablature on the north-eastern corner of the tempe to shift slightly from its place. At the same time the gaps caused at the joins by rusting iron clamps, became more pronounced.

The plan is to bring down this superstructure, replace the clamps with brackets made of a rust-free titanium alloy, then reassemble it and shift it back into position. The operation will be carried out later this year. Temporarily, the endangered cornice has been fastened in splints.

This was announced today in the course of a press conference given by Mr Andreas Adrianopoulos, the Minister of Culture and Sciences, in the presence of Dr Nikolaos Yalouris, inspector-general of the Archaeological Service, and Dr George Dontas, curator of the Acropolis.

The minister said that, considering the intensity of the earthquake, the damage to antiquities had not been extensive. "The ancient buildings," he said, "withstood the shock better than the new ones."

The replacement of the iron dowels inserted in the marbles of the Acropolis monuments during past restorations, with a rustfree material, is now in progress. "Had we not completed this work on the western wall of the Erechtheion," Mr Dontas said, "It would certainty have collapsed during the earthquake."

The lower drums of some five or six columns of the western and eastern colonnades of the Parthenon had also shifted slightly, one centimetre at most, but there was no danger, he said.

Perhaps the most serious loss during the earthquake, was the destruction of the small museum at Perahora, north of Corinth, which was near the epicentre of the shock, and the breaking of some 200 fine classical and archaic amphoras and lekythoi in the National Archaeological Museum.

"But, not to worry," Dr Yalouris said, "We have some of the best vase-menders in the world."

One of the Corinthian capitals of the columns of Olympian Zeus, a familiar landmark at the entrance of Athens, broke off during the tremor, while two more capitals had shifted position on the tall columns. They would be repaired.

Vertical cracks had allso been noticed on the limestone columns of the temple of Aphaia on the island of Aegina, which curiously had occurred after the earthquakes.

Mr Adrianopoulos said it was extraordinary that the antiquities of ancient Corinth, so close to thecentre of the earthquake, had suffered no damage at all, nor had the local museum.

He said the Archaeological Service was already taking the appropriate measures to avert further damage in case of new earthquakes. "We lived under the impression that Athens was quite secure from earthquakes," he said. "No ancient author has ever recorded an earthquake in Athens. Besides, the fact that the Acropolis still stands is proof of this. Evidently we will have to revise our ideas."

Corinth tremor: An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale was recorded by the seismological observatory in Athens today (Agence France Presse reports).

The observatory said the epicentre aws in the same area—the Gulf of Corinth—asthose of recent earthquakes. Today's tremor apparently caused no casualties or damage.

Mr Mintoff is accused of emulating Charles I

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, March 2.

Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, the leader of the opposition Nationalist Party, lashed out at Mr Dom Mintoff and his Labour Government at an extremely well attended mass meeting here yesterday.

In his address Dr Fenech Adami attacked Mr Mintoff's court reforms Bill saying that the Government had taken the country hundreds of years back by assuming the stand taken by Charles I of Britain, who said that he was the king and therefore could do no wrong.

He recalled that the Labour Party's electoral programme had promised the introduction of an ombudsman and the right of individual petition to the European Commission of Human Rights and that everyone, including the Government, would be subject to the law. Nothing had come true, he remarked.

Instead the Maltese had been deprived of the hitherto existing possibility of appeal to the Privy Council, and now that all constituted bodies had for the first time joined together to condemn the proposed reforms, the guillotine motion had been passed in Parliament to restrict the debating time on the Bill, which enters committee stage today.

Dr Fenech Adami said the Government had stated it was not right that just one citizen should take the Government to court. There could be no greater proof of the contempt in which Mr Mintoff's Government held the citizen, the Opposition leader said.

He added that until some time ago, Mr Mintoff had threatened the West by asking for economic and other aid in default of which he would go to "the other side"—Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

Now that Colonel Gaddafi had let him down Malta found itself "in a state of isolation".

More nuclear protests at Brokdorf likely

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 2

More anti-nuclear demonstrations like the one by 50,000 protesters at Brokdorf near Hamburg last weekend were promised today by the leader of West Germany's nuclear protest movement.

Herr Josef Leinen, head of the association of civic action groups said their campaign against the building of the Brokdorf nuclear power station would continue with sit-ins and probably further mass demonstrations.

Some 10,500 police were deployed around Brokdorf during a three-hour battle with water cannon and tear gas against a hard core of protesters.

President's hand forced by the opinion polls

Continued from page 1

or combination . . . I do not seek partisans. I want to bring together the greatest possible number of Frenchmen . . . I shall not be a president-candidate, but a citizen-candidate", he concluded.

The President's announcement comes within 56 days of the first ballot on April 26. He had declared in his last television appearance at the end of last month that between 15 and 20 days before the polls was a "normal period to inform Frenchmen" of his aims and objectives. He has declared himself sooner than he appears to have planned originally for two reasons: The first is the large fall in his personal score in opinion polls; the second is the unexpected impact made by M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist candidate, since he entered the lists a month ago.

For some weeks now, the liege men of the Giscardian UDF, the coalition of parties that support the President, had become increasingly alarmed that the electoral stage should be monopolized by the Gaullists, socialists, and communists, and had been pressing him to declare himself.

President Giscard d'Estaing wanted to delay doing so as long as possible for the very obvious reason that once he became a candidate he would lose the position of authority and prestige which is properly that of the head of state, and would have to plunge into the electoral free for all. The only precedent under the Fifth Republic of a president seeking re-election is that of General de Gaulle in 1965.

He had declared that he would stand only one month before the poll, and only after some hesitation. He had refused to campaign and, much to his surprise, was forced into a second ballot by M Jean Lecanuet, then in opposition, and M François Mitterand.

Paris opens its own Manhattan

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 2

The Qautre-Temps, claimed to be the largest commercial centre in Europe, was opened this morning at La Défense, the controversial futuristic complex of 21 tower blocks and high rise buildings, in the axis of the Arc de Triomphe, nicknamed Manhattan sur Seine, which has revolutionized—some would say, spoiled—the traditional Paris skyline.

M Giscard d'Estaing, when he was Finance Minister, was so shocked by the damage to the unique view of the Arc de Triomphe from the Louvre, where he had his office, that he got the Government to order the height of one of the towers tat threatened to blo i out, to be reduced.

But much that was irreparable had already be done. It has now, for better or for worse, become as much a part of Paris as the Eiffel Tower which was equally controversial in its day.

La Défence is a vast complex of offices in which 45,000 people work each day, and of 7,000 flats which attracted Parisians because of their relatively cheap rents.

It was a monumental gamble which began in the 1960s, went through many ups and downs, and verged on financial castastrophe before it could be said, only a year or so ago, to have been definitely won by the architects and the planners.

It is, in the words of the director general of the EPAD, the public company set up to redevelop the area, a symbol of the extraordinary social and economic transformation of France in the past 20 years, as he said in Le Monde today.

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, who opened the new commercial centre with a floor space of 105,000 sq metres—twice the area of the shops of the Champs Elysées—has always firmly believed in the future of La Défense.

He ordered an additional 700,000 sq metres of office space to be built there in 1978, when the property market was in the doldrums. By 1982, there will be nearly twice that amount of office space in use at La Défense.

The building's opening is another gamble. But 90 per cent of the available floor space has already been taken up by 160 different businesses including a supermarket of 12,000 sq metres, the largest in the Paris region, and by restaurants, food shops, clothing and household equipment stores, nine cinemas and a skating rink.

M Barre used the occasion of the inauguration to repeat his call to his fellow countrymen to "continue, resolutely to tread the road of effort, and solidarity" and to pat them on the back for what they had already achieved.

By doing so, he added, they would be able to look to the future with confidence. "They will also have the honour and pride of having helped to keep their country in the leading platoon of the big nations", he insisted, "in spite of difficultise of all kinds, in spite of the criticism inspired, all too often, alas, by a systematic negativism. France has been able to find in her very depths the necessary resources to face up to her trials and to pave the way for the future.

"Our country has been able to adapt itself to the energy upheaval. It has undertaken with courage and determination the industrial and commercial transformation necessary to overcome successfully the competition of its partners, and of new industrial countries."

Jerusalem denies Palestinian compromise

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 2

Israeli officials today denied a semi-official Egyptian press report alleging that Mr Ariel Sharon, the Agricultural Minister, had proposed far-reaching concessions in an effort to break the deadlock over Palestinian autonomy and reach agreement before the June 30 general election here.

The report appeared in the Cairo magazine *Mayo*, a new weekly published by President Sadat's ruling National Democratic Party. According to the magazine, Mr Sharon's proposals were put forward during a recent meeting with Mr Saad Murtadd, the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel.

Senior officials in the Israeli Agriculture Ministry later acknowledged that a meeting between the two men had recently taken place, but they denied that any proposition had been put forward by Mr Sharon.

Although observers accept the denial that no formal concessions were proposed, it is widely known that Mr Sharon and some other ministers regard a breakthrough in the autonomy talks as possibly the only political card available to save the Begin coalition from defeat in June.

In addition, Mr Sharon has recently tried to impress on his colleagues that concessions leading to an autonomy agreement now would be preferable to much more sweeping Israeli concessions

It is understood that among suggestions which Mr Sharon and his supporters have considered in private are possible extensions to the proposed powers of the Palestinian autonomy council and a relaxation in Israeli demands for control of water rights in the West Bank.

That sinking feeling overtook three men who had to ditch their aircraft at Miami Beach after engine failure. They escaped unhurt.

Lebanon shelled for second day

From Robert Fisk,
Beirut, March 2

The southern Lebanese port of Sidon came under long-range shellfire this morning for the second consecutive day while a few miles south of the city, Israeli jets bombed targets in the village of Abu al-Aswad.

In the attack on Sidon seven people were injured and the city's water supply was cut by the shellfire.

The bombardment was part of Major Saad Haddad's campaign against the Lebanese Government who, he claims, owe the former soldiers in his militia back pay amounting to 20m Lebanese pounds (about £2.5m).

The air raid was of a more conventional kind. The Israeli authorities announced afterwards that their Air Force had scored "accurate hits" against Palestinian guerrilla bases in Abu el-Aswad although a statement issued later by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Beirut claimed that there had been no casualties in the attack.

Later reports said that several people had been hurt. It was the sixth Israeli attack of its size on southern Lebanon this year, a series of air and sea-borne raids that have so far cost the lives of 29 people, fewer than half of them guerrillas.

Palestinian raid: Palestinian missiles hit an Israeli frontier town today and wounded three people soon after the Israeli air raid into Lebanon, the military command said (AP reports from Tel Aviv). The first barrage hit Kiryat Shmonah in northern Galilee.

Troubleshooter tries to settle war at Amnesty

By Caroline Moorehead

A dispute affecting the internal running of the British section of Amnesty International is to come before a special commission of inquiry, headed by Mr Peter Archer, QC and former Solicitor-General, this week.

The commission is meeting to pronounce on an internecine battle which has led to an occupation, a partial strike, several resignations and, perhaps most vitally, to a danger that Amnesty's reputation could be tarnished.

Trouble began in the British section, housed together with Amnesty International, in Covent Garden, last September. It was then that Mr Cosmas Desmond, recently appointed director, decided to reorganize a highly complicated staffing system that owes much of its impetus and success to a mixture of volunteers and professionals.

There was, according to members of the staff, nothing wrong with the idea of reorganization—but it did not work. Staff members long used to a certain flexibility and autonomy rebelled, not so much against the new structure but against middle management charged with implementing it.

In January, the matter went before Amnesty's council, which supported Mr Desmond. Last month, the dispute having grown more acrimonious, it was once again brought before the council. This time it decided against the new structure. Mr Desmond has felt bound to see this as tantamount to dismissal and gone on holiday, leaving an acting director to take his place until the problem is resolved.

The battle has inevitably been seen in terms of personalities. That in itself, though disruptive, is less harmful than the suggestion made over the past weeks that the British section is in a state of fragmentation and inefficiency, something that Mr Roger Briottet, elected chairman of the council two weeks ago after the resignation of the former chairman, is determined to refute.

The organization, he argues, is currently extremely productive, having leant its weight to much publicized campaigns over Zaire, Chile, South Korea and the export of repressive technology.

Why, then, has a seemingly trivial difference of opinion reached these threatening proportions? Precisely because, Mr Briottet believes, the British section has been so successful in recent years, growing from 8,000 members in August, 1978, to 17,000 today.

Such a rate of expansion cannot be achieved without growing pains, particularly in an age when not just Amnesty, but all human rights organizations are juggling between traditional methods of persuasion and the new public action campaigns, between the quieter form of nagging, and the louder sounds of public exposure. There is, he says, no contradiction between the two; the debate, in itself healthy, must simply be sorted out.

The war at Amnesty will not be allowed to go on. At the end of the month, the organization holds its annual general meeting and will then consider the commission's verdict. Whatever the outcome, Mr Briottet believes that the British section will then be able to resume its work, put behind it a pointless wrangle of the kind to which such organizations are sadly prone and, with luck, come to see that the future lies not in a debate over methods, but in a process of selecting that form of campaign best suited to the time, place and nature of each inquiry.

UN vote to silence South Africa

New York, March 2.—The United Nations credentials committee today recommended that the General Assembly bar South Africa from a debate on Namibia (South-West Africa), although an independence plan for the territory demands Pretoria's cooperation.

Only the United States voted against the proposal. Six of the nine committee members were in favour, and Spain and Costa Rica abstained.

Herr Rüdiger von Wechmar, president of the assembly, asked for the committee's recommendation after South African delegates turned up for the debate, and were immediately challenged.

South Africa's delegation was ejected from the assembly in November 1974. It did not reclaim its seats until May, 1979, when it was again barred at the start of a special session on Namibia.

South African sources discouraged speculation that today's ban might be followed by rejection of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia.

The plan was drafted by the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. It has not been implemented because South Africa is not convinced that the United Nations would fairly carry out the terms, which include supervising the holding of elections in the territory.

The assembly recognizes the South West Africa People's Organization as the only authentic representative of the Namibian people.—Reuter.

Hijacked plane diverted to Afghanistan

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 2

A Pakistan aircraft, with 148 passengers, was hijacked and diverted to Kabul today.

The hijacker, who spoke to a Pakistan International Airline official from the Afghan capital, said he was a member of the Pakistan People's Party, which was founded by Mr Bhutto, the late Prime Minister.

The captain was stated to have been forced to fly to Kabul only a few minutes before the aircraft, which has taken off at Karachi, was due to land at Peshawar.

No immediate explanation for the hijacking was available.

Record crop of maize embarrasses Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 2

...er plentiful rains and a ...perfect growing season ...ral exports are vying with each other to produce estimates on the maize crop in Zimbabwe which—although there are disagreements over the size of the final harvest—will certainly be the biggest

But this ...y plenty is proving to be a mixed blessing for the Government. Ironically, in a continent where famine is endemic, the crop is simply too big.

While maize is the nation's staple foodstuff and an important element in livestock farming, production declined steadily from 1975 until last year when Mr Robert Mugabe's newly-formed Government was forced into the embarrassing position of having to import maize from South Africa.

Determined to avoid a repetition this year, the Government encouraged to turn land over to maize by increasing the price paid by the Grain Marketing Board from 85 Zimbabwe dollars (about £56) per tonne to 120 dollars while keeping the price to the consumer down to about 60 dollars.

What had not been foreseen was the extent of the response to the dangled carrot: commercial and peasant farmers planted maize over an unprecedented 280 million acres, the crop went in early and, after two years of drought, rain fel lheavily and regularly.

As a result it is estimated that the harvest will realize between 2.1 million tonnes and 2.4 million tonnes, a huge increase on the previous record of 1.4 million tonnes in 1973.

Pradoxically, this unexpected bounty will cost the Government dear. From April 1, when the price to the farmer goes up to 120 dollars every tonne passing through the Grain Marketing Board will cost the Exchequer 75 dollars—about 60 dollars in subsidy and 15 dollars in storage costs—unless the price to the consumer is increased.

Officials believe that the present price is far too low and that although it would be extremely unpopular to increase the cost of the staple diet of the vast majority, and poorest section, of the population, a rise is inevitable. Estimates of such an increase vary from 30 to 50 per cent. To balance the books an increase of more than 100 per cent would be necessary.

Famine threat: In stark contrast, President Nyerere has warned his countrymen that Tanzania is threatened by its worst famine in 20 years of independence, because of a shortage of foreign exchange.

Mr Nyerere, quoted by the Tanzanian Government newspaper *Daily News*, said that this year's drought had hit Tanzania at a time when its reserves of foreign currency were low.—Agence France-Presse.

Moscow says Thatcher recipe for world peace based on 'piles of arms' cannot be lasting

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 2

Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the official Soviet spokesman, criticized Mrs Thatcher today for suggesting in her speech in New York last week that Western strength was a necessary precondition for negotiations with the Russians. He said any peace built on "piles of arms" would not be durable.

The Soviet Government, he said, was ready for a constructive dialogue without any preconditions. In all past summit conferences it had been the prerogative of those taking part to negotiate on any topic without conditions. He said a summit was a vital part of such a dialogue, and it was better to have a prepared one than an unprepared one. But neither side could lay down conditions.

Addressing the press conference on the seventh day of the Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Zamyatin said the Russians had followed Mrs Thatcher's visit to the United States "with great attention". He did not reply directly to her tough accusations against the Soviet Union, but noted that she had rejected aspects of President Brezhnev's foreign policy proposals out of hand and said the Russians were still hoping for an "objective response" from the Americans.

He said he was "a bit surprised" when the British Prime Minister spoke of the need to establish a military equilibrium between East and West, since the latest report from the Institute for Strategic Studies—"which as I recall is not too far from 10 Downing Street"—showed that this balance already existed.

The Soviet spokesman said Western leaders, and especially American senators, were putting forward all kinds of preconditions for a summit as a "subterfuge" to put off such a dialogue. He cited the demand that the Russians must first end arms deliveries to El Salvador, and categorically denied that the Soviet Union was sending any weapons to the insurgents there.

He suggested that Senator Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate subcommittee on the Western hemisphere who made the call, should instead read the list of Soviet proposals for arms control to which the Russians had still not received any reply from the West.

Mr Zamyatin rejected the contention by the West German Government that there was nothing new in Mr Brezhnev's call for a moratorium on the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. He said the new factor in the call was its proposal to freeze development both qualitatively and quantitatively—meaning that the Soviet Union would not go ahead with the modernization, as well as the deployment, of its SS20 missiles.

The Russians, he went on, were prepared to freeze modernization and deployment of their missiles in the Western part of the country if the Americans did the same with their forward-based systems while talks went on about a permanent agreement.

Mr Zamyatin criticized the West German Government for presenting their country as the "further of rearmament" of medium-range nuclear missiles.

Meanwhile, the party congress today heard the remaining few speeches of delegates and visitors and approved the economic report of Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, with its details for the present five-year plan and guidelines of economic and social development until 1990.

This evening, there was a closed session when the party's Central Committee considered nominations for membership and then, after a secret ballot, voted on membership of the policy-making body. The committee was expected to increase its membership by about 30 to a total of about 330 to take into account increased membership of the Communist Party throughout the country.

The new committee then voted on the composition of the ruling Politburo, whose 14 members had to put themselves up theoretically for reelection. Few if any changes are expected. The results will be given tomorrow, the final day of the congress.

Tables turned: Mr Ed Koch, the Mayor of New York, spoofs the press with his own song and dance number at the city journalists' annual Inner Circle show. Politicians are their usual butt.

South Korea offers pardon to 5,000

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, March 2

President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea announced today that more than 5,000 political and other prisoners would be given an amnesty tomorrow when he is officially inaugurated as President of the republic for the next seven years.

The amnesty offer came some hours after Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, had announced a new campaign for the release of about 500 political prisoners in South Korea, calling on President Chun to commute the death sentences on dissidents and to investigate allegations of torture in South Korean prisons.

In spite of the apparently significant timing, President Chun was not yielding to pressure from Amnesty International, for he had already let it be known that he planned an amnesty to coincide with his inauguration.

But the campaign may help to improve prison conditions by spotlighting unlawful detention and harsh treatment of prisoners. President Chun's new constitution promulgated last October, promised greater protection of human rights in South Korea.

It is not yet known how many of the 500 prisoners named by Amnesty International have been included in the amnesty.

But this will be the largest amnesty since the Republic of Korea was founded in 1948, and will apply to a total of 5,221 prisoners. Of these 2,417 will qualify for early release with suspended sentences, the Government said today. A further 968 will be released on parole, 646—including 59 serving life sentences—will have their prison terms reduced.

The amnesty offer will apply to many people involved in political disturbances under both the present and former regimes. Mr Kim Kye Won, the latest President Park Chung Hee's chief secretary, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the plot to assassinate President Park, is to have his sentence reduced to 20 years.

General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Army Chief of Staff and martial law commander, arrested by the then Major General Chun Doo Hwan and later sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his alleged involvement in the assassination plot, is to be released.

The amnesty offer includes 176 people imprisoned after last May's general uprising in the southern provincial town of Kwangju. They will now be released, and 131 people also involved in the Kwangju riots but released earlier, will have their civil rights restored.

President Chun has also said he will deal leniently with a further 83 people involved in the Kwangju riots whose appeals, including three against the death sentence, are still pending final judgment.

But amnesty will not be extended to the more than 550 former politicians who have been banned from all political activity for the next eight years.

Moi appeals for press opposition to apartheid

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 2

President Daniel arap Moi opened the annual assembly of the International Press Institute here today, stressing the responsibility of the world's press in furthering the cause of social justice—particularly by campaigning against apartheid in South Africa.

President Moi said it was wrong for Western countries to tolerate apartheid because they regarded South Africa as important to Western security. "The South African situation constitutes a direct and real threat to international peace and security," he said. "Each and every country has a duty to change that inhuman system—the urgency of the matter cannot be exaggerated."

Kenya, he said, did not hate South Africans—it hated their system.

At the same time, he said, as a black man he was not proud of what was happening in Africa, where refugees were fleeing from one country to another. A common effort, by all those who love humanity, was needed to fight evil, from whatever corner it came.

The press was an essential instrument in the promotion of social justice—including the inequitable distribution of wealth between the developed and the developing world.

When developing countries suggested solutions, these were sometimes misinterpreted. But the whole world, and not merely the poor countries, would benefit from a more equitable distribution of the world's resources.

Mr Oloo Aringo, Kenya's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, complained that the developed countries had done little to help achieve changes in the world's information and communications systems. "We have witnessed numerous attempts to stall the negotiating process. The nations of the world are increasingly becoming more dependent on one another. It is on the basis of this inter-dependence that the developing countries are asking for changes", he said.

In an address on "The Press in the Third World", the Aga Khan told the assembly that the debate on a new information order should be resolved positively.

"Discrediting Unesco will not make the problem go away. If for many of you the present Unesco approach is so unpalatable, and you are convinced that acceptable solutions cannot be worked out in that forum, then it is imperative that you develop a practical alternative.

"If you fail to do so, the issue will be lost by default", he said.

There was much discontent in developing countries over what was seen as a Western failure to respond adequately to calls for a new world economic order. "The call for a new information order is linked to these economic aspirations. Efforts on the communications front could prove the West's willingness to try to correct those world imbalances which it recognizes, and on which it can have a significant impact", the Aga Khan said.

TUC to set up fund for Solidarity

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The TUC is to set up a £20,000 support fund for Mr Lech Walesa's Solidarity labour organization after hearing that independent unions in Poland intend to work within the communist system.

The first fruits of talks held yesterday, between the TUC international committee and a top-ranking Solidarity official, Mr Bogdan Lis, will be helped in trade union organization from a British educational delegation from a British educational delegation.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, last night side-stepped questions about help for other "unofficial" trade union movements in Eastern block countries.

In London yesterday, Mr Lis, aged 28, a former shipyard engineer from Gdansk and one of Solidarity's two national vice-presidents, said the union would defend the rights of workers before the state and employers. "We don't intend to create a new political party."

Today he will meet leaders of the engineering, coal mining and transport workers' unions at the close of his four-day visit. He flies home tomorrow.

Gierek protest: Mr Edward Gierek, the former Polish Communist Party leader, has protested against a smear campaign he claims has been conducted in newspapers to discredit him and members of his family (Dessa Trevisan writes from Warsaw).

One newspaper published a report saying he had acquired an engineering degree in mining without passing an exam.

Mr Gierek protested in a letter to the party newspaper *Trybuna Robotnicza* that several thousand people had been given similar degrees under a law passed soon after the war.

News analysis

Progress slow in extending capability of armed forces

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

In spite of Mrs Thatcher's brave promise of British help in protecting Western interests outside Nato, the Ministry of Defence has made slow progress towards the modest goals outlined last year. Senior officers are now waiting to see if priorities will be adjusted in the light of her New York speech.

The first indication that the Government was considering improvements to the services' so-called "worldwide capability" came in last April's Defence White Paper, and was confirmed by Mr Pym, then Defence Secretary, in the Commons in October.

Energies were first concentrated upon trying to reestablish a parachuting assault capability, and the number of fully trained parachute battalions has been raised from one to two—one of them in the 6th Field Force whose headquarters are at Aldershot and the other in the 8th Field Force based on Bulford.

The RAF is also continuing with its programme to "stretch" 30 of its 65 Hercules transport aircraft, increasing their capacity from 92 to 128 soldiers or from 64 to 92 fully equipped paratroopers. Three of the stretched Hercules are already flying.

Whitehall's recent cash squeeze, however, has cut short plans to buy the Adverse Weather Air Delivery System radar to enable the Hercules to fly in close formation in poor visibility. Reductions in the fuel allocation have also ruled out any chance of pilots completing the 1,000 hours additional flight training every year which is thought necessary.

As a result it would take Britain about an hour to drop one parachute battalion, instead of the 15 minutes which would be required in an emergency. Observers drew an unfavourable comparison between the British and American drops during last September's Nato exercises in West Germany.

The Army could draw upon other units of the 8th Field Force—and 6th Field Force too if necessary—and fly them to some distant trouble spot in the enlarged Hercules, assuming that there was a runway available. But the ministry has not been able to afford the special stockpile of food, fuel, ammunition and other equipment which the Army would like to establish on Salisbury Plain—so that a contingency force could draw supplies quickly without raiding Nato-assigned stores.

The American Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) when formed, should be able to land 12,000 men within five days, in the Gulf or elsewhere. But the establishment of a British RDF, trained for that role alone, has never been seriously considered.

Even if Britain could afford to build its own RDF, the pressures on money and manpower dictate that it could not hope to train for all the various kinds of operation in parts of the world as different and distant as the Gulf, Zimbabwe and the Falkland Isles.

As a result the ministry is trying simply to ensure that the services would have the flexibility to send troops when they were needed.

Attempts to settle Qantas strike fail

Sydney, March 2.—Talks aimed at settling a crippling 17-day ground staff strike against the Australian airline Qantas broke down today as the air force continued ferrying stranded passengers between Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Keith Hamilton, the Qantas chief executive, said talks had reached an impasse over a union demand that Qantas give up its right to break strikes with staff from other departments while still retaining the union's right to strike.

The Australian Government today promised full financial support if Qantas had to shut down.—Reuter.

Singapore project depicting triumph of Tiger of Malaya goes ahead

British surrender to Japan in waxwork show

From David Watts
Singapore, March 2

Singapore is quietly going ahead with a controversial plan to build a wax tableau depicting the British surrender to the Japanese 39 years ago.

There is already a "surrender chamber" with waxwork figures showing Lord Louis Mountbatten taking the Japanese surrender at the end of the war. The new tableau is to be built, like the present one, on the island of Sentosa off Singapore. The island already has a comprehensive collection of Second World War memorabilia.

Sentosa attracts Japanese tourists and businessmen, many of whom visit the war museum.

The surrender chamber has two rows of light oak tables at which life-size wax models of the participants are seated: the allies on one side, the Japanese on the other. Lord Mountbatten, who liked to visit the chamber, is flanked by Lieutenant - General R. A. Wheeler, of the United States, and General Sir William Slim, all looking suitably triumphant.

On the Japanese side, General Seishiro Iragaki, commander of the Seventh Area Army, is flanked by Lieutenant-General Heitaro Kimura, commander of the Burma Area Army, and Lieutenant-General A. Nakamura, commander of the Eighteenth Area Army, looking rather unshaven and downcast.

The tableau is inside an area surrounded by smoked glass through which tourists view the proceedings to the accompaniment of a commentary which does its best to make up for the humiliation of Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival, commander at the time Singapore fell. In the background, the strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" ensure that the point is not lost. On the outside walls tablets explain the set-piece in both English and Japanese.

Near by, photographs retell the story: Japanese troops pedalling cheap bicycles along expensive British-made roads down the Malay Peninsula towards the fabled guns of Singapore pointing in the wrong direction. There they are in another photograph under a newspaper headline: "Malaya ready for front-line role in Pacific."

General Arthur Percival surrendering on February 15, 1942.

The Sentosa Development Corporation wants to build the new tableau in the interests of historical balance and, no doubt, with an eye to all those Japanese tourists. It is part of a plan to exploit the island's military history which began when the British developed it as a fortified dump to protect stocks of coal for its wide-ranging merchant fleet.

Accordingly, the corporation has been looking for photographs and detailed information on which to model its layout. There is more than one photograph of General Percival, who was frail even before his years in Japanese prison camps, marching to the surrender ceremony with General Tomoyuki Yamashita, "the tiger of Malaya", accompanied by British troops carrying the Union Jack and a white flag. But the only photographs of the actual signing ceremony show the British party from the rear seated at a table with General Yamashita glaring from the other side.

The corporation believes the photograph was taken from that angle to spare General Percival's blushes. It has been trying to find one showing the general's expression, but it has received little help in its efforts to commemorate what Sir Winston Churchill called: "the worst disaster and the largest capitulation in British history".

A corporation spokesman said the British High Commission is "not very happy about the project. They do not want to give any help." While the British Museum was, according to the spokesman, "tight-lipped", when an emissary went to research the project.

"We were surprised at the sensitivity of the British", one of the corporation staff said. "We do not want in any sense to shame the British. We just want to make the museum complete. The Japanese seem to have accepted events during the war as fact whereas the British have not."

Opinion in Singapore seems to be divided between those who feel the projected tableau will record an objective historical fact and those who feel it will be a monument to aggression. Many older Chinese still remember with horror the years of Japanese occupation. Others, who have lived so long now with a large postwar Japanese community, have come to see the difference between today's salary-man and the Kempei Tai (secret police) officer who ran Singapore during the war.

One Briton was unequivocal about celebrating British ignominy in wax: "It is like putting up a tableau showing Hitler dancing a jig at Versailles."

But there is undoubted pride, privately, among the Japanese at a brilliant feat of arms and at least some of the money for the project is understood to be coming from private Japanese sources. But there is no official enthusiasm from the Japanese for the idea and any Japanese businessman financing the project whose name becomes public will most likely receive some official "guidance" on the subject.

If the idea comes to fruition, however, it might prompt wider knowledge of the role of the unfortunate General Percival who took command in Singapore only months before the Japanese invasion to find training and equipment hopelessly inadequate.

No general could have turned the situation round in the time available. General Percival was retired soon after he returned to England at the end of the war and was still regarded by the Army and the establishment with disfavour when he died in 1966.

Wife kidnapped by family rejoins her husband

From John Best
Ottawa, March 2

An Algerian woman has returned with her French husband to Montreal, nearly three years after it was reported that she had been kidnapped and spirited back to Algeria to marry a man she was betrothed to at birth.

Mrs Dalila Maschino, aged 29, said at the airport on her return that she was "very, very happy" to be back.

Among those who met her and her husband, Denis, also 29, were two detectives who drove them to a Montreal police station and questioned them for three hours concerning the abduction.

Mrs Maschino said she escaped from her Algerian husband last week while they were on holiday in Geneva. She fled to Paris and telephoned Mr Maschino, who was visiting friends there, and they made immediate plans to return to Montreal.

Mrs Maschino's abduction in April 1978 became an international incident. Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, referred to it as a "crime", and instructed the Canadian Embassy in Algiers to make a protest.

Mr Maschino claimed that his young wife had been drugged while visiting an aunt's apartment in Montreal, then taken aboard a private jet at Dorval airport in a wheelchair and flown to Algeria.

Dalila Maschino: "Very, very happy" to be back.

The jet was said to have been owned by her millionaire brother, who objected to her marriage to a Christian and insisted she become the bride of a Muslim professor to whom she had been promised at birth.

Dalila and Denis Maschina met in 1974 when they were both at the University of Algeria.

A police official said the reunited couple will receive round-the-clock protection indefinitely.

Malaysia hangs three under security laws

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, March 2

Three more men were hanged this morning for illegal possession of firearms, bringing the total of executions to six since last Wednesday. All six were Chinese convicted under the Internal Security Act which restricts the rights of the accused.

This brought the total hanged to 17 since Malaysia resumed executions a year ago after a lapse of nearly a decade. All but two of them were convicted under the security laws.

At least 60 men are in Malaysia's Pudu prison awaiting execution. Executions are usually carried out within days of appeals being rejected.

General admits cover-up over island massacre

Manila, March 2.—The military authorities in the Philippines admitted today that they deliberately tried to withhold from the press publicity about the February 12 massacre of 119 government troopers in Pata island in the south.

Brigadier-General Delfin Castro, chief of the southern military command, told the local press in Zamboanga city that the incident was best forgotten because it had a psychological effect on the government soldiers, sources said.

General Castro was quoted as saying that the real story was purposely withheld since its publication would only fan the fire in the eight-year conflict in the south.—Agence France-Presse.

Argentina offers Falkland Islands special status

Port Stanley, March 2.—Argentina's military Government has offered to make the Falkland Islands its "most pampered region" and to guarantee the islands' democratic traditions if British settlers give up rule from London and accept Argentine sovereignty, according to two members of the Islands' Legislative Council.

The offer, made at last week's talks between Britain and Argentina in New York on the ownership dispute, was Argentina's first direct appeal to the Falkland's 1,800 settlers. The settlers want the islands, 300 miles off Argentina's coast, to remain a British colony, but they are concerned at London's reluctance to assist their sheep-raising economy which is in a slump.

Mr Adrian Monk and Mr Stuart Wallace, settlers who went to New York as part of Britain's delegation, returned here on Saturday and met the rest of the Falkland Islands Council. They told reporters on Sunday that the next round of talks would be held after a new eight-man council, to be elected by November, decided whether to accept some form of Argentine sovereignty or to drop out of the negotiations.

Britain, which obtained the islands in 1833 and is under international pressure to give them back to Argentina, has promised to follow the settlers' wishes. At the council's request Mr Nicholas Ridley, the British Minister of State, asked Argentina last Monday to freeze the sovereignty issue while the two nations worked out joint fishing and oil exploration ventures.

Argentina refused, but the meetings continued for a second day as Comodoro Carlos Cavandoli, Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister, spoke directly with the two Falkland delegates.

"We were asked what did we want, presuming we agreed to cede sovereignty. Would we draw up a list of our requirements", Mr Monk said.

"We said, well, we have a democratic form of government, a different legal system from yours, different customs, a different form of education. And they told us all those things could be guaranteed for some considerable time. The only thing they wanted was sovereignty."—AP.

Teenagers abandon their joints for the bottle

Washington, March 2.—American teenagers are turning off narcotics and switching to drink. Officials say that alcohol is progressively replacing drugs like marijuana and heroin as the most popular addiction among young people.

Already, 19 per cent of American adolescents are addicted to drink, according to a report published by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Some teenagers arrive drunk in class. Others take to the bottle during break or after lessons. A number are so inebriated, they have trouble finding their way home.

More than three million teenagers, aged between 14 and 17, are heavy drinkers, according to official statistics.

Mr Fritz Witti, public relations director of the national institute, said that the institute's researchers were unable to give a breakdown of teenagers' choice of drinks. Its report makes no distinction between imbibers of wines, beers and spirits.

But he said it was clear that alcohol was now more popular than marijuana and had become the "choice drug" of adolescents. Drink was a cause of 50 per cent of traffic accidents involving adolescent drivers, Mr Witti said.—Agence France-Presse.

Axe on Kenya teachers cuts British influence

From Our Own Correspondent
Nairobi

Changing patterns in aid are reducing British influence in Africa. This is nowhere more obvious than in the disappearance of British teachers from most of Kenya's secondary schools, where until a few years ago they constituted a "hard core" of experience and knowledge, highly respected by thousands of students who were destined to play important roles in their country's affairs.

In 1973 there were 600 British teachers in Kenya, including 420 in secondary schools. This year the total under British aid schemes is about 190, including only 47 in secondary schools.

In another year, the number in secondary schools will be down to 20.

Many critics consider that British money would be better spent in subsidizing teachers than in financing roads or other development projects. It is, of course, impossible to measure precisely the benefits which Britain gets from providing teachers to a developing country—but many of the leaders in these countries have an enduring respect for the expatriates who taught them.

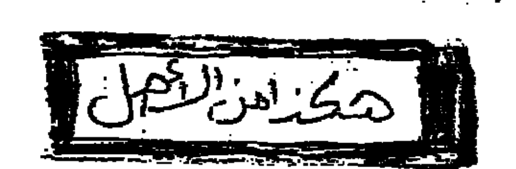
After independence in 1963, Kenya had large numbers of British teachers in its secondary schools. A substantial part of Britain's aid programme to Kenya went to provide the teachers who were not available from among the Kenyans themselves. Britain topped up the local salary (which is certainly not enough to attract many expatriates) to a level in line with that which a teacher would earn in his own country, and paid a gratuity on the completion of a contract.

Passages between Britain and Kenya for the teacher and his family, school fees for his children, housing subsidies and other items swelled the bill—which now amounts to about £10,000 a year for each British teacher working here.

The rundown in the numbers of teachers was a gradual process (at Britain's insistence) until the last two years, when it speeded up considerably, as part of Whitehall's economy drive. But it had been agreed that while the main body of teachers should be phased out, there would remain a core of perhaps 100 senior teachers, mainly mathematics and science specialists, who are particularly short in Kenya.

Last year, however, the economy axe fell even harder, and the Kenyans were told that the whole programme to provide British secondary school teachers must end.

This was a blow to Kenya, already short of teachers as a result of the expansion of the school system and the difficulty of retaining trained graduates



Consultations before use of rapid deployment force—Mrs Thatcher

House of Commons

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, reporting to the House on her visit to the United States last week, said that the reception she and Lord Carrington, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, received in Washington was warm and generous and testified to the health of the Anglo-American relationship and to the excellent understanding which she and President Reagan had established even before either of them had assumed their present responsibilities.

My talks with President Reagan and members of his Cabinet (she went on) covered all the most important aspects of the international scene. The discussions were particularly timely since the new Administration are still formulating their policy on many of the issues raised.

At this early stage in the new Administration's period in office there was, of course, no question of new commitments being entered into by either side.

We exchanged views on East-West relations as a whole and in particular on the speech which President Brezhnev delivered a week ago. We agreed that it contains, besides much that is unacceptable for Britain and America, certain points which need to be explained and explored.

This applies, for instance, to President Brezhnev's remarks about arms control, which both President Reagan and I see as a necessary complement to defence and deterrence.

On the Middle East, I explained the objectives of the European initiative stemming from the Venice Declaration of last June. I pointed out that this initiative was intended not to compete with American efforts but to complement them.

On southern Africa, we agreed to keep closely in touch, especially in relation to Namibia—a problem to which the United Nations is increasingly turning its attention.

On El Salvador, the Americans expressed their concern about the developing conflict and in particular made clear their opposition to the support which the guerrilla movement is receiving from external sources.

Lord Carrington and I indicated that the British Government shared the American view of outside interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador. We explained that we condemned violence from whatever quarter it came and that we considered that the people of El Salvador should be able to determine their own *future peacefully and democratically*.

The President and I discussed the threat to the stability and security of the Gulf and South-West Asia following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I said that Britain shared the determination of the United States, and of our other allies, to prevent Soviet encroachment in this region.

We discussed the possible creation of a rapid deployment force which would be available for use, if necessary, in an emergency in this or other areas of the world. This matter will be the subject of consultation.

I made it clear that if such a force was created, the United Kingdom would be ready to contribute to it, in the same way as, in conjunction with the United States and France, we have already stationed naval units in the Gulf in response to the situation arising from the Iran-Iraq war.

In my discussion with Defence Secretary Weinberger, I pointed out that this year and last the United Kingdom had increased its defence spending in accordance with the Nato target.

The Defence Secretary and I agreed that there should be better balance in defence purchases between this country and the United States. This would lead to more effective use of the Alliance's resources.

On all the matters we discussed President Reagan and the members of his Cabinet whom I met expressed their intention of consulting even more closely and frequently than in the past not only with Britain but also with America's other allies. Indeed this is already happening.

I naturally welcome the American intention, and I hope that my own visit will have contributed to deepening the understanding on which such consultation must always be based.

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab), questioning the Prime Minister on her statement, said: Unfortunately she could not speak in the United States on behalf of a united nation unless (Interruptions and Conservative laughter) she had changed both the tone and attitude on a whole range of issues on which she expressed her view in the United States.

On our own domestic affairs on which she gave several manifestations in the United States, the most friendly advice she could have given them was not to follow her example. Did she not at any time raise with the President the possibility of concerted action by the United States Government, the British Government and other governments to try to take measures to defeat the slump?

Does she not understand that on several matters of foreign policy, on El Salvador, on the neutron bomb, which I am sorry *she did not mention to the House*, and on measures she is apparently contemplating for dealing with the position in the Persian Gulf, one of the obligations and duties of a British Government should be to warn about the perils which might come if certain courses are followed?

When she says she is against intervention in El Salvador, is she against American intervention there?

On the Persian Gulf it would have been better, before making statements, if she had discovered what would have been the reaction to some of her statements in the places involved.

Does she not appreciate that some of the greatest dangers to the United States would be to intervene at the wrong time in the wrong place on the wrong side? That is truly the lesson of Vietnam which *she does not seem to* have learnt.

On detente, we all appreciate that for it to be successful there have to be responses from the Soviet Union as well as from others, and that almost for the first time she has had to emphasize the need for arms control.

But does she not think it would have assisted the course of detente better if she had not indulged in the United States in bellicose demagogy on a matter on which demagogy is most out of place.

Mrs Thatcher: He said I could not speak for a united nation. I could never speak for the leader of a party who believes in unilateral disarmament. (Conservative cheers). As long as that happens, I am afraid the United States view is that the defence of this country would not be safe with such a party, nor the defence of the West.

On domestic affairs, we did discuss with a number of people, including the President, the problems of world recession. Some United States industrialists believe there will be an upturn during the second half of this year, as indeed we hope and believe there will.

The origins of the world recession were the sharp increases in oil prices in the last 18 months.

This matter is discussed frequently and is discussed between heads of government, including those in Europe. The question is easier to pose than to find a solution to when we get regular Opec meetings and oil prices go up. Prices of oil in this country *from the North Sea were fixed* by Mr Foot's government to be at world prices. That is in statute.

On El Salvador, we made a statement before leaving; it is available in full. We have made clear that we fully understand the strategic importance of the region of *Central America to the United* States. For the rest, I stand by the statement we published, which was welcomed in the United States.

On the neutron bomb, no proposal has been put before us and the United States has said any further move will be the subject of consultation with the allies.

On a rapid deployment force, in a way we were ahead of the rest of the world in that we actually raised a similar subject in the last Defence White Paper in the chapter on wider defence interests when we recognized that some of the threats were coming outside the Nato area and that the Nato alliance itself cannot respond under Nato command outside the area. Therefore, the alliance members may themselves have to make particular arrangements.

Mr Pym, when Secretary of State for Defence referred to it in the debate on October 28. There is nothing new in that.

The possibility of a rapid deployment force is being considered.

If we have one, at least we could respond to requests when trouble arises the world over. If we have not, we cannot, and by that time it would be too late to create it.

I recognize what Mr Foot says about detente. It must be fully reciprocated and I am sorry he *does not wholly share my view.*

On arms control, the Nato decision on theatre nuclear forces was accompanied by a recommendation that arms controls talks should be entered into immediately. One such meeting was held. So far there have been no more.

We both recognize, together with our European allies, the importance of that. We also recognize that on theatre nuclear forces, the Soviet Union is way ahead of this country, Europe and the United States. It is time that we, *to deter, had a similar capability* unless theirs is to be substantially reduced.

Mr Foot: On the rapid deployment force, if we were so much ahead of the rest of the world on the subject, why could we not have had proper consultations *with the countries involved? Why* is it these countries are the first to be protesting at what she and apparently President Reagan said?

On El Salvador, Mrs Thatcher says she stands by the statement she made earlier which was not satisfactory. Is she opposed to United States intervention there, or is it only one-sided intervention to which she is opposed?

On detente and the statement of Mr Brezhnev, when is it likely some progress will be made in establishing a conference in which *these matters can be discussed?*

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to El Salvador, we stand absolutely by the statement we made before we went. The first point is to try to stop the large supplies of arms to the guerrillas. I cannot get into the position of commenting on *each and every activity of the* United States. It would be improper to do so.

On the capacity to operate outside the Nato area, this matter was dealt with in the Defence in the 1980s White Paper. We said the Government believed the Services should also be able to operate effectively outside the Nato areas without diminishing our central commitment to the alliance.

Certain improvements to the world-wide capability of the Services are being considered. Such improvements could be achieved at relatively modest *cost while making the Services* significantly more flexible to undertake tasks outside the Nato area.

It seems that if people are truly concerned in protecting the freedom of the West when that freedom may be challenged anywhere in the world, unless we consider the creation of a rapid deployment force, we deny ourselves the capacity to meet that threat. I can understand that Mr Foot may never wish to have the capacity to meet the threat.

We had a conference on detente in Madrid, but because the Soviet Union is still in full force in Afghanistan that was not a success. The best thing that could happen for the future of detente is for the Soviet Union to with*draw, and soon.*

Mr Foot: On the deployment force, does she not think that the countries involved have a right to be consulted?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. That is exactly why I said in the statement that this matter will be the subject of consultation.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): Many Conservatives have been urging for some years that the defence of the West depended on defence of the periphery, including the Gulf and southern Africa. We well understood the difficulty of the Government in giving effect to our advice so long as the American Administration was vacillating as in the past.

I offer my congratulations on her having at once grasped the opportunity to align ourselves wholeheartedly with the American Administration in saying we would not only support, but join in the defence of our essential interests in the Gulf, southern Africa and in wherever else in defending the freedom of the free world.

Mrs Thatcher: This has been the subject of considerable debate for some time. We cannot defend outside the Nato area unless we have the capability to do just that. We are making modest changes in that direction.

It is right that with our allies we should discuss the possible creation of such a force. Its use would depend on consultation in the area.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles): While it is right to be suspicious of Soviet motives *and demand their withdrawal from* Afghanistan, there is a growing generation deeply worried at the waste of resources on the arms race on both sides of the Iron Curtain and the habit of world leaders in keeping each other at arms length, in personal ignorance, and mutual hostility.

Mrs Thatcher and the President should recognize that the way to defeat the march of world communism is not to give aid and comfort to other totalitarian regimes, but to demonstrate their democracies have superior values.

Her Government has failed to do that with cuts in overseas aid, *broadcasting and in increasing* the fees of overseas students from poorer countries. Nor will the process be helped by the hint of a return to the role of uninvited world policeman.

Mrs Thatcher: Our first duty is to protect our own freedom and that of the western alliance.

There would be no western way of life unless we were prepared to defend it. If we do not and trouble arises we should be the first to be criticized.

Some of us have lived through that period before. So long as this Government is in power this will never happen again.

With regard to disarmament talks, we all agreed we would like to be able to defend at a lower level of balance. Of course we do. I wish some people who feel as strongly as we do, would also direct their criticism to the Soviet Union which gives 13 per cent of its gross national product to increasing armaments year after year.

On the defeat of the march of world communism, our first duty to freedom is to proclaim our own.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab): Her hawk-like utterances in the United States have brought nothing but shame upon the British people. (Conservative protests.)

It is now the duty of the House of Commons to apologize to the American people and to say her statement in regard to the neutron bomb and the rapid deployment force in no way represents the *majority view of the British* people.

Mrs Thatcher: I leave statements which reflect the shame of the British people to Mr Atkinson. He is an expert.

Sir Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone, C): I compliment Mrs *Thatcher on her robust perform*ance in the United States and welcome her statement that the European initiative in the Middle East is complementary to that of the American Government, which I understand to mean the European initiative is now behind the Camp David initiative and will not diverge from that.

Mrs Thatcher: On his first point, we are a staunch ally of the United States and a staunch believer in the defence of freedom. On this side of the House we are robust in that belief and shall continue to be so.

On the Middle East initiative at Venice, I did point out it was meant to be complementary to the United States negotiations and not competitive in any way. The United States is considering how to take forward *its negotiations. I doubt* if much will come out until after the Israeli election.

Mr Robert Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne, West, Lab): It is bad enough that the Prime Minister has spread despondency and fear across the whole of the United Kingdom for the million people unemployed who had jobs when she came to power and those who still have jobs and fear they will not have them soon.

But she is overstepping her remit when she makes a statement about the Gulf area. The imperial power days of this country are years behind us. Does she want another diversion like Suez?

Mrs Thatcher: We have some ships in the Gulf area for the defence of the freedom of navigation which is vital to the western world. Those ships were welcomed by the Gulf states and are still welcomed to keep open the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): As a result of her talks with President Reagan, is he now coming to the view that while no settlement in the Middle East can come about without American involvement, the European initiative is necessary too?

While military strength is necessary in that area it is not a substitute for intelligent diplomacy and political initiatives on the *lines proposed in the Venice com*muniqué.

Mrs Thatcher: Sometimes military strength is required when political and diplomatic initiative have failed. We have to try. That also comes about when tyrants who *are well armed have their way.* It can also come about through subversion.

We continue with every single political and diplomatic effort to try to solve these problems in the Middle East. Our efforts are to be complementary to those of the United States. The Middle East problem could not be solved except with the United States.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester, West, Lab): Is it not correct that the United States rejected the need for a European initiative based on the Venice declaration largely because it suggested the involvement of the PLO without its prior renunciation of terror and without prior recognition of the right of Israel to exist behind secure and recognized frontiers?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Janner is just not right about the Venice declaration. The Venice declaration made it quite clear that the Palestinian people would have to accept Israel's right to exist behind secure boundaries, and also that Israel would have to recognize the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

That was at the absolute basis of the Venice declaration. I take it very ill from Mr Janner if he is not aware of this.

Mr David Watkins (Consett, Lab): Were there any consultations with the *governments of the Gulf* countries before she made her public statement in America?

Are any consultations now proposed to try to rectify the damage she has done to Britain's Gulf relations?

Mrs Thatcher: The possible creation of a rapid deployment force is not only with reference *to difficulties which have occurred* or may occur in the Gulf. It is to have a capability to try to meet other trouble spots in the world. (Labour shouts of "Answer the question").

We are talking about the possible creation of a rapid deployment force—(a Labour MP: "Consultation")—to meet possible trouble arising in the world.

We do not need to consult, except with our allies, about —(Labour protests)—the possible creation . . . (Interruptions). Of course, if it were created we would need to consult with the host countries about its use.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire, C): Is it not deeply disturbing that not a single Labour MP has had a good word to say for our allies? (Conservative cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: I agree, but occasionally they do show themselves in their true colours. (Renewed Conservative cheers).

Mr Foot: We on this side have been firm friends of the United States for many long years. (Labour cheers and Conservative laughter). We do not need any lectures from Conservatives MPs (Further Labour cheers). Sometimes the best course is for *friends to speak out.*

Could she clear up the question of the Gulf? Is she now saying that she intends to have the consultations which should have taken place before?

On all the evidence, it seems that many people in El Salvador have *been murdered, or are in danger* of being murdered, by arms imported from the United States? What is wanted there is mediation of some sort. (Conservative interruptions). Some Conservative MPs *do* not care a damn about the murders in El Salvador. (Labour cheers).

Did she have discussions with President Reagan to see whether we could have some mediation, as has been suggested by the West German government? Should she not have given her support, if she wanted to defend the freedom she prates so much about?

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to the earlier question, the statement I read out was perfectly clear. I do not understand why he per*sists in further cross-examination.*

With regard to El Salvador, of course one is concerned about murders, violence and help from whatever quarter it comes. We made that clear in our statement and continue to make it clear.

We continue to make it clear that the people of El Salvador should again be able to be free to *decide their own future. One* of the immense problems at present is the large amount of arms getting through to the guerrilla forces.

With regard to the reported initiative of the West German government, we have not been informed of any such initiative.

Gulf states have nothing to fear

House of Lords

After **Lord Carrington**, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had repeated the Prime Minister's statement on their American visit, he said there was nothing said or done in Washington about which anyone in the Middle East or in Britain should have any doubts.

Lord Carrington was replying to a question from **Lord Goronwy-Roberts** (Lab) who said the idea of committing the United Kingdom to a rapid *deployment force* in the Gulf seemed to be rather obviously un-thought-out beforehand. The question of intervention in the Gulf was complex and sensitive. Britain was, it seemed, *committed to joining* with the Americans in providing a force to intervene in the Gulf.

Within hours of this being known, he said at least three of Britain's best friends in the Arab world reacted in a hostile if not *an abusive fashion.* This was not the best way to help the legitimate and vital interests of Britain in the Middle East.

Lord Gladwyn (L): Liberals have reservations about the rapid deployment force. We doubt the desirability of sending out any such force, either on the part of the Americans or ourselves.

The Russians show no present intention of advancing towards the Gulf. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the balance of power in the area might be upset as a result of revolutionary movements or by the arrival of any substantial Nato force, even granted there would be agreement in Nato on its despatch.

Lord Carrington: The rapid deployment force has been a matter of consultation *and discussion over* a period of time. It was originally the idea of President Carter's Administration and the Americans have been considering it since then.

The point about rapid deployment is *not that it is* stationed in any area outside the United States or Europe but that it is deployed rapidly. There would not be a physical presence.

The idea is that since the Nato Treaty is restrictive in its operation and undoubtedly there are incidents around the world which affect the West and the Nato countries, it is a good idea to see how it is wise to respond in certain cases to prevent any further Soviet aggression. It seems to me this is a sensible thing to do.

There are no commitments entered into. All of us ought to think carefully about how best to deal with a situation like Afghanistan.

I do *not believe that* our neighbours and friends in the Gulf need have any fear that it is directed at them or that there will be any action taken in their defence for which they do not ask.

This is a matter for consultation, as the statement said. *I do not* think that there was anything said or done in Washington about which anyone in the Middle East or in this country should have any doubts.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Debate on Government motion on independent strategic deterrent

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Water Bill, second reading. Industry Bill, committee. Debate on privatization of certain local authority functions.

GLC Bill through

The Greater *London Council (General Powers)* (No 2) Bill was read the third time.

Law must uphold public confidence in courts

A balance had to be struck between the competing interests of the right of the public to be fully informed, as had been stressed by the press, and the right of the citizen to a fair trial, civil or criminal, **Sir Michael Havers**, Attorney General, said when he moved second reading of the Contempt of Court Bill, which has passed the House of Lords.

Sir Michael Havers (Merton, Wimbledon, C) said that the law of contempt was not to protect the dignity of the law but the fundamental supremacy of the law.

The Bill included many recommendations of the Phillimore Committee on Contempt of Court but *since* that committee had reported in 1974, other events had occurred, like the decision of the European *Court of Human Rights in The Sunday Times* case in 1979, as a result of which the need for reform had increased rather than diminished.

There seemed to be feeling in some quarters that the committee's recommendation should be *regarded as a form of Holy Writ* whose every dot and comma had to be carried out. Without detracting from the report, it was the Government which must take ultimate responsibility and decide which proposals to lay before Parliament.

Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Grinstead, C): It has a right to make up its own mind, but there is profound concern in the media, and particularly in Independent Television News about the provision that the recognized time of arrest rather than the time of charge should be the time from which strict liability or contempt should begin to run, and no reasonable argument has been adduced by the Government for going against Phillimore in that.

Sir Michael Havers: The Phillimore *decision was completely shown up* for its dangers by what happened in the Sutcliffe case.

The committee had, broadly speaking, made three recommendations about the rule of strict liability: that it should be confined to publication; that the test of breach should be more narrowly defined, and that it should be within defined limits in relation to the proceedings in question.

It had suggested they should get away from the "imminent" provision.

In *The Sunday Times* case it had been laid down that it would be wrong to prejudge an issue. Prejudgment of the outcome of a case had become a test for contempt and it was that which had been critized by Phillimore and the European Court of Human Rights.

The Government view was that implementation of Phillimore would suffice to bring the law of contempt into line with article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights as interpreted by the court.

The Phillimore committee's recommendation for England and Wales on criminal proceedings was that the strict liability rule should apply from the time that the *accused was charged or the sum*mons was served.

This Bill instead provided for strict liability to run from the arrest, the issue of a warrant for arrest, the issue of a summons, and so on. It had been pointed out in the press and elsewhere that that was a *significant* departure from the committee's recommendations.

It should be remembered that when the committee considered the alternative, which was now in the Bill, it was the only possible alternative to what the committee recommended. The committee had found the argument very finely balanced.

He was sure that the proposal in the Bill was *right.* The decisive factor *in his mind* was that it was at the moment of arrest, or the issue of a warrant or summons, *that the identity of the suspect* became known. It was *in relation* to the person as much as to the crime, *that the most prejudicial* material could be directed.

Some of the most damaging material one could think of was an account of the suspect's past history, especially if it was unsavoury and it included previous convictions.

Once the identity of a suspect *was known, he could be seriously* prejudiced by publication of alleged facts linking him with the crime—facts which might be at issue at the trial, and facts allegedly connecting him with other similar crimes.

All that could happen before the suspect was charged and would not be restrained under the Phillimore proposal.

Perhaps the most striking example that would be seen for many years was the publicity that followed the arrest of Mr Sutcliffe before he was charged.

That (he said) was a case of a good deal of prejudical publicity after the arrest and before the charge, and in the Phillimore proposals there would have been no restraint on that kind of publicity until charged.

Anybody who made the comments that were reported in that case was in breach of the existing law because at the moment the existing law imposed strict liability when proceedings were imminent and they clearly were imminent in that case.

The defence that was provided lay in Clause 3 which reenacted the defence of innocent publication. Under it, if a publisher did not know or had no reason to suspect whether proceedings were active, he had a complete defence to a charge of breach of the strict liability rule.

A difficulty raised about the starting point was that it would inhibit the press in publishing warnings issued by the police about a particular suspect for whom a warrant had been issued.

It was right that the police should be able to warn the public through the press that a particular suspect was dangerous and should not be tackled. It might be they issued a photograph or some other identification of the wanted man. The present law which undoubtedly applied at that stage did not seem to have inhibited the press in these respects.

It was right some restraint *should be exercised.* Therefore, continued application of the law at that stage might be a good thing. But the press had nothing to fear from publishing in reasoned terms anything which might assist in the apprehension of a wanted man, and he hoped they would continue *to perform this public service.*

Another aspect of the starting point was that relating to appellate proceedings. *If the Bill became* law, the effect would be to disapply the strict liability rule to the period after the proceedings at first instance were concluded and before notice of appeal was given.

It would be anomalous to exclude any class of proceeding from the test laid down in the Bill. The new test in Clause 2(2)—that the strict liability rule applies only to a publication which creates a substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question will be seriously impeded or prejudiced—represented a considerable tightening of the existing law and required account to be taken of the fact that senior judges would be influenced much less easily than witnesses or *a jury*.

The administration of justice depended to an important degree on the confidence the public had in it and one of the purposes of the law of contempt was to uphold that confidence. Of particular importance was the confidence of litigants that they would get a fair hearing.

The Government disagreed with the Phillimore view, which doubtless had in mind *The Sunday Times* and the thalidomide case, on the matter of pressure put on litigants.

The Bill struck the right balance between the freedom of the press and the need to uphold the integrity of the administration of justice.

Need for uniform approach on contempt

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on Legal Affairs, (Aberavon, Lab) said in so far as this Bill replaced uncertainty with certainty, they welcomed it. However, concern had been expressed about the time at which strict liability for contempt began in criminal proceedings.

The Bill proposed a starting point from the time an arrest was made, or the issue of a warrant or summons. In most cases, there would be little practical difference because the charge would usually follow closely after arrest.

In the Sutcliffe case, a press conference was called in circumstances which flew in the face of decency, if not law. The press in *England and Wales only took their* cue from this conference. It was the system that broke down.

The press was rightly concerned with the difficulties of the present proposal. It replaced in their view one uncertainty with another. *Despite the defences available*, the position would put the press in peril because they would not necessarily know of the arrest or the issue of the warrant.

There would be the problem of where a warrant had been issued, *but not served* because of the disappearance of the person concerned.

He welcomed the Government's acceptance by way of amendment that strict liability should be confined to publications which created a *substantial risk* that the cause of justice would be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

This was a big improvement in the Bill and he hoped it would remove a considerable amount of disquiet. The sledgehammer of contempt proceedings should only be brought where really necessary.

His understanding of what Miss Harman, a solicitor, did was to show a reporter documents that were read. What was difficult for the public to understand, given the *new and changed character* of these documents when they were read out in open court, was how it could still be held that this was a contempt. Indeed a serious contempt.

This was an Alice in Wonderland situation and there would be an attempt to remedy it during the committee stage. The Harman case endorsed the need for uniformity of approach and for the consent of the Attorney General before such proceedings were brought.

The wider umbrella for the concept of strict liability for contempt had created a reduction in the freedom of expression.

With proper safeguards very widely drawn, they should look closely at the need to protect sources of those responsible for publication. In a free society the public had a right of access, wherever practicable, to information, particularly in the public sector.

There were, from time to time, *matters of great concern* which should be investigated and it was the vigilant free press which was frequently the only ones with the resources to do it.

The practice of the courts in seeking where possible to avoid questions being put to journalists to disclose their sources should be put on a statutory basis.

Mr Percy Grieve (Solihull, C) said he welcomed the proposal that criminal proceedings were to be regarded as active once the initial steps had been taken and that that might be arrest without warrant.

Mr Samuel Silkin (Southwark, Dulwich, Lab) said he thought the decision to bring proceedings in the case of Harriet Harman was entirely wrong. He did not think that if the Attorney General had been consulted the proceedings would have been brought.

Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Grinstead, C) said he approached the Bill with his experience as a reporter.

The Bill was bred and phrased before the Sutcliffe affair broke in the press and if liability began at the time of arrest the police and press were already doing something *wrong but this did not stop* the press reporting what they felt they had a right to report.

The law must be founded on common sense. If the press were asked to act with restraint which fought against their basic interests to inform the public, the law would break down. Supposing liability ran from the time of arrest. It might be some time before the charge was made and it was sometimes impossible for journalists to establish if a person had gone to the police station to help, in the well-worn phrase, or *if he had* been arrested. Reporting could be curtailed.

Extending contempt law to proceedings of all inferior courts, tribunals and bodies was unacceptable.

Mr Alexander Lyon (York, Lab) said Harriet Harman was a young lady of ability well above the ordinary. She took exceptional care that she did *not* breach the law as she understood it at the time.

As she understood the law so did he. It was that if a document was read out in open court the fact that that document was written later could not conceivably be contempt of court.

For her to be dragged before the court, told she had committed a serious contempt, mulcted of costs, personally criticized by judges in wounding terms, and then criticized even more by the Lord Chancellor, was an unjust imposition. He could not find words to encompass his distaste for what had taken place.

Mr Keith Best (Anglesay, C) said he had misgivings that it was to be the Attorney General who would decide if proceedings should be brought. One Attorney General might tale one view but his successor might take a different view.

It was unfortunate, too, that the burde nof proof should be put onto the shoulders of the defendant.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab) said he was against the *Bill*. It was a *Bill* drawn up by lawyers to deal with what had become fundamentally a social problem.

The Bill was really about open government. It was about how much the public was allowed to know from the High Court. In issue after issue it dealt with the matter for the convience of lawyers rather than the convenience of the public.

The only reason the Bill was before the was because the Government had lost at Strasbourg. Instead of seizing what could be a real opportunity to open up the courts in much the same way as Parliament had been opened up, the opportunity had been taken to restrict the freedom of the press.

Mr Peter Archer, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Warley, West, Lab) said there had been adverse criticism *from* The Times and other newspapers and legal journals on the time at which proceedings became active. It was important, where sanctions would be *imposed*, that those concerned should know with maximum certainty when they were at risk.

It was not always easy to know when someone had been arrested because they might have been at the police station some little time.

The debate was taking place against the background of the Sutcliffe case but there was a danger of overreacting to a single case.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, Solicitor General for Scotland (Kinross and West Perthshire, C) said that where the press or media were asked to assist in the apprehension of a person there would be no question of them being ugility of contempt.

The Bill was read a second time by 137 votes to 25—Government majority, 112.

House adjourned, 10.40 pm.

Police accused of spying on immigrants

House of Lords

The Government should look into allegations that the police were trying to use persons settled in the United Kingdom to spy on alleged illegal entrants, Lord Avebury (L) *said during questions.*

Lord Avebury asked the Government to look into allegations that police officers used threats against a person of overseas origin, settled in the United Kingdom, to persuade him to inform on other *persons suspected of being illegal* entrants.

Was the Government satisfied that the Metropolitan Police were having due regard to the Home Office letter of December 12, 1980, in which it stated that "the enforcement of the immigration laws is among the most delicate of the tasks which the police have to perform and the Home Secretary appreciates that chief officers are anxious to see that it is performed with tact".

Lord Belstead, Under Secretary, *Home Office: I am not aware of* the case referred to. It would not in any case be appropriate for the Government to investigate such allegations against the police. It is open to any person to make a complaint to the chief officer of the police force concerned, who will arrange for it to be investigated in accordance with the statutory procedures.

The Home Secretary is confident that the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis is conscious, in this and in other areas, of the need to *strike the right balance between* enforcement of the law and the maintenance of good race relations.

Lord Avebury: How can the Home Secretary appreciate that chief officers are anxious to see their tasks performed with tact, when he does not make any inquiries what so ever about allegations of a serious nature which have been submitted to him?

In the case of this particular individual, he was twice held in a police station for lengthy periods, although he was not suspected of any offence, and tape recordings of conversations he had with the police showed they were inviting him to assist them in informing them of persons who were allegedly illegal entrants or overstayers.

Is this in accordance with this letter?

Lord Belstead: I do not understand the meaning of his question. The Home Secretary carried out a review in consultation with the Commissioner of Police of the *Metropolis and the Association of* Chief Officers into procedures for instituting searches such as this, and as a result the circular letter was sent out.

Eisteddfod to get finance

Part of the additional £500,000 of Government money to be used to promote the Welsh language in 1981-82 would go to the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, Mr **Wyn Roberts**, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said during questions.

Mr Roberts (Conway, C) said that the £500,000 would be used to provide grant support for the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, to assist Urdd Gobaith Cymru with new development at their camp at Llangrannog, and to increase the grants to Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, the Welsh Books Council and Bwrdd Ffilmiau Cymraeg.

The Secretary of State for Wales *(Mr Nicholas Edwards)* had conditionally promised financial support for the Nant Gwrtheyrn Trust.

Details of the grants to be made next year would be published at the time of *publication of the pub*lic expenditure White Paper.

Lengthy civil cases may be tried without juries

To allow solicitors to become judges of the High Court was calculated to create ill-feeling between the two branches of the legal *profession*, ***Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone***, the Lord Chancellor, said during the committee stage of the Supreme Court Bill.

He was replying to Lord Mischon (Lab) who moved an amendment to Clause 10 (Appointment of *judges of Supreme Court) to allow* circuit judges who were solicitors to be appointed to the High Court bench, in addition to barristers of 10 years' standing, as the Bill proposed.

Lord Mischon said it was wrong to exclude solicitors.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said the amendment would be a breach of the principle upon which High Court judges were selected. It was calculated to create ill-feeling between the two branches of the profession upon whose friendly cooperation the smooth working of the system of justice ultimately depended.

The present system was the more satisfactory one—that 10 years' practice in the High Court should be the test of what became a High Court judge.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Lord Roskill moved an amendment to Clause 68 (Trial by Jury) to provide an additional exception to the absolute right of trial by jury in certain civil cases where the probable length of a trial made the action one which could not conveniently be tried with a jury.

He said the amendment would relieve juries from an intolerable burden which they had from time to time to put up with in the High Court.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said long cases did put a burden on the jury which was unfair, and it should be right that the judge should have discretion from the beginning to say whether the case should be tried by a judge alone.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said he would accept the amendment. Service on the jury was compulsory for those who were not exempt. There was a case at the moment going on in the High Court which, when the *pleadings* were closed, it was estimated would last three days. The estimate changed before the case came on to six or seven weeks. In fact it started on October 6 last year and it was still going on.

The judge had to tell the jury that instead of the seven weeks, they would be expected to abandon their business to do a ful-time job and it was likely to be Whitsun before they were released from their task.

It was no good enough in 1981 for two parties who happened to disagree about a matter of civil litigation to be able to compel the attendance of 12 of their fellow-countrymen to sit from October in one year to Whitsun in the next to listen to their case.

The amendment was agreed to and the committee stage concluded.

House adjourned, 9.06 pm.

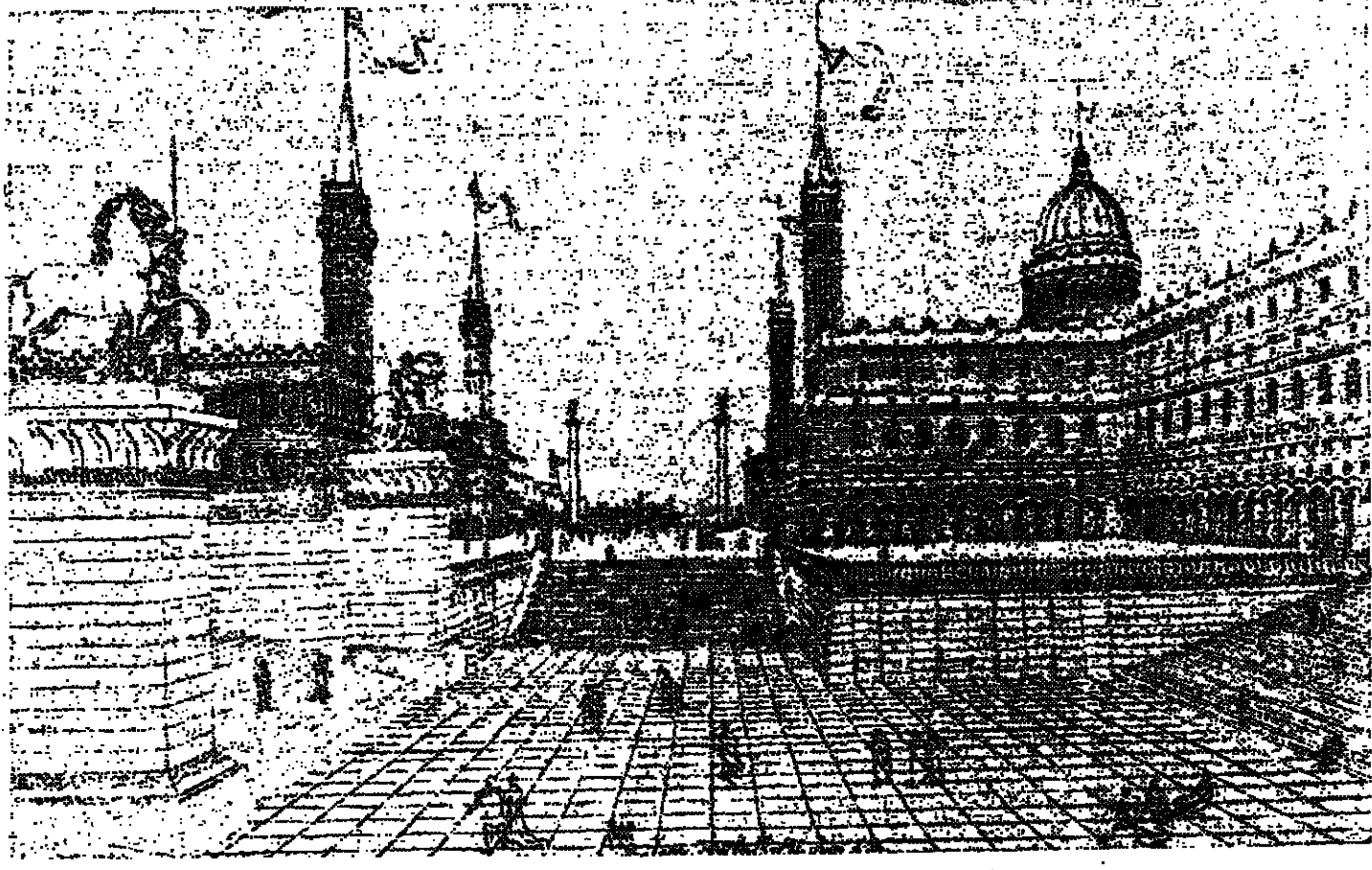
An incomparable display of Schinkel's architecture

Karl Friedrich Schinkel
Altes Museum,
East Berlin

José Clemente Orozco
Orangerie, Schloss
Charlottenburg

Art Treasures from China
Museum fur
Ostasiassische Kunst,
Dahlem

K. H. Hödicke: Bilder 1962-1980
Haus am Waldsee



Schinkel: *City Square by the Sea* (after 1804)

There are many exhibitions which are virtually unaffected by the surroundings in which you see them: the great international touring exhibitions of the past few years are mostly designed to recreate their own little world in any environment which offers at least the minimum amount of space required. But there are others which take on a particular vividness and significance from one specific setting—whether it is C. R. Ashbee in Cheltenham, surrounded by his contemporary Cotswold craftsmen, or Olbrich in Vienna in the art nouveau house of the Secession he himself designed, for once wholly consonant inside and out. A perfect example is currently on show (until the middle of April) in East Berlin, where the bicentenary of Schinkel's birth is being very grandly celebrated with a show which reflects his many-sided talents to the full, occupying the whole ground floor of his Altes Museum in the midst of the formal and cultural centre of old Berlin he conceived and laid out.

It is not so much that an impressive Schinkel exhibition could not be laid on in West Berlin: since just about everything that happens in Berlin has automatically to be doubled to show that neither half has a clear lead over the other, it will come as no surprise that West Berlin is busy planning its own bicentenary tribute with two complementary shows, due to open this month. They will no doubt be stronger on the paintings, since many of the finest examples of Schinkel's romantic and visionary landscapes are in the West. But for coverage of Schinkel's major architectural work the collection of drawings in the DDR's Staatliche Museen zu Berlin is absolutely incomparable, much of his finest surviving furniture and other decorative work is in the East, and so, of course, are many of his most important buildings and pieces of city planning—some of them still, as a room of this show demonstrates, being slowly but surely restored to their former glory after war damage one would have imagined irremediable.

Schinkel is an extraordinary and very Prussian mixture. On the one hand he was often the purest and most severe of neo-classical architects, producing buildings like the Altes Museum itself which are so immaculately regular and correct they ought to be cold and inhuman, or drawings of his own buildings and imaginary projects which are astonishing triumphs of sheer technique, using none of the conventional aids of cunning shading and *trompe l'oeil* effects, but rather doing everything by pure line and the play of formal perspective. And yet his chilliest set-pieces are full of a strange contradictory tension, something expansive and emotional all the more potent for the strictness with which it is held in check. And when you look at his paintings, or his projects in more fantastic styles, such as the towering gothic cathedrals or the bizarre semi-oriental palace he designed for the Czar on the edge of the Black Sea, or for that matter the elaborate stage settings he conceived for *The Magic Flute* and several even more exotic and irrational operatic entertainments of his own time, you can see just what it was in Schinkel's nature which created this striking ambivalence.

A romantic wolf in classical sheep's clothing, Schinkel is shown off to perfection in the Altes Museum. Sections of the show are devoted to each of his biggest projects, bringing together scribbled sketches, highly finished renderings, plans, photographs and models of the buildings with later depictions in the graphic media and photography. This way we can see in detail the evolution of, for instance, the building we are standing in, the nearby Berlin Schauspielhaus or the Neue Wache, and the whole rethinking of central Berlin which went on between 1815 and Schinkel's death in 1841. The drawings are wonderfully vivid and detailed (mercifully so considering the enormous amount of restoration which has been required and, thanks to these documents, can be carried out to the letter), while the models hold some surprises: who would expect an architectural model, for instance, to be carried out with jewel-like precision in ivory, mother-of-pearl and rare woods?

And when all of this is reinforced with an almost complete range of Schinkel's beautiful watercolour designs for the stage, furniture of all kinds made from his designs, china and glass and sculpture and ornamental plasterwork, the result is an all-round picture of a complex and original artist who seems to become with the passing years closer and closer and more and more relevant to the needs and interests of our own time, firmly refusing to know and stick to his pigeon-hole in history. The only disappointment in the show is the absence of most of Schinkel's major paintings (how he found time to do them heaven knows); but at least the visitor from the West can conveniently return to the Nationalgalerie on the other side of the wall and lose himself again in the mysterious depths of Schinkel's *Gothic Cathedral by a River*, transfigured as it is by the light that never was on land or sea.

West Berlin also at the moment contains a striking demonstration of the effect that a change of venue may have on an exhibition. The big show of Orozco, recently seen in this country at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, is now at the Orangerie of the Charlottenhburg. The difference is astonishing. The dark and inward-looking gallery in Oxford was made to seem positively labyrinthine with interior walls and screens, and the darker, more introspective later Orozcos, painted when he had returned to Mexico and found the fruits of democracy disappointing, made their statement far more powerfully than the more extrovert, simplistic political murals of the 1930s. In Berlin the space is simple, open and white, flooded with light, with a big slide-show of Orozco's large, untransportable works in the darkened dome halfway through. Here the broader effects carry most weight, and the more severe works go for relatively little. Impossible to say which arrangement is better, or more true to the artist; but one might certainly be seeing two quite different shows.

The big attraction in West Berlin, however, is the show of *Art Treasures from China* which offers the first opportunity outside that country to see some key discoveries in the years since the Jade Princess was unearthed. The major excitement is the centrepiece of the show, selected examples of the monumental figures dug up in their thousands four years ago guarding the tomb of the "First Emperor of China", Qin Shihuang Di, along with a careful explanation of the context in which this sleeping army was found.

The sheer scale of this dig is mind-boggling, and the life-size figures of warriors and sturdily simple horses have a grand simplicity which has nothing at all to do with the primitive or naive. But, though they are inevitably the most striking part of the show, they should not blind visitors to other, smaller items displayed all round, covering the whole length of Chinese history, the outside influences which occasionally made themselves felt and the changes in religious and political attitudes which kept Chinese art, however unchanging a cycle of Cathay may seem to us, in a constant state of flux. Though the objects on display are all archeological discoveries of the past few years, it is right that the show should be called "art treasures", for finally, however educational a visit to the show may be, it is because it brings us into such fresh and exciting contact with works of exquisite grace and beauty that it will ultimately be valued.

Last, as it provides some further background to the Royal Academy's *New Spirit in Painting* show, I should mention the retrospective at the Haus am Waldsee devoted to the work of K. H. Hödicke since 1962. Hödicke has emerged in these years as one of the most effective of the new figurative painters in West Berlin. He deals in large, simple shapes, strongly but not unsubtly coloured: frequently human figures set in some kind of suggested landscape background or interior, sometimes pure landscape. This show indicates very clearly how he arrived at his present position: the process is mainly one of simplifying and paring down.

In the earliest paintings the expressionist elements are very clear, but so is the influence, which one should have guessed at but did not, of Beckmann, especially in a series of action-packed triptychs. Later there are experiments in a sort of photographic realism (notably in several large pictures of street scenes distorted, apparently, in uneven plate-glass windows), flirtations with weird materials, such as the chicken feathers which are stuck (precariously?) all over the surface of one large monochromatic painting, and then back, enriched, to the most recent nudes and street scenes and evocations of show business. Possibly Hödicke's work does not cut very deep, but at least a sheer delight in the process of painting is apparent throughout his career, and that, in the rather grim context of recent German art, is by no means to be despised.

John Russell Taylor

Book review

Working at a life

Aubrey Beardsley
An Account of His Life
By Miriam J. Benkovitz
(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

How much life can be lived in 25 years anyway? Especially by one who, contrary to what Wilde claimed of himself, kept his genius for his art and scarcely had time or energy to put even a modicum of his talent into anything else. All the same, the perennial fascination of Beardsley's art, and its apparent allusiveness as well as elusiveness, continue to keep biographers busy. All the experts on the Decadent Nineties seem to getting in their two-cents-worth: Brian Reade, Stanley Weintraub in a surprisingly thick biography, Malcolm Easton in his interesting if inflated and too-speculative *Aubrey and the Dying Lady*. And now here is Professor Benkovitz, bibliographer of Firbank and biographer of Corvo, with her contribution to the still-expanding shelf.

It is a sober book. We are taken through all the ascertainable facts of Beardsley's brief life, from his artistically precocious childhood in Brighton to his sensational and hardly less precocious heyday as the creator of the "Beardsley woman" and arbiter of Nineties taste, and so to his conversion to Roman Catholicism and good death, repenting of "all obscene drawings", when still five *months short of his twenty*-sixth birthday. It is mainly, as one might expect, a chronicle of work done, for in his few years of feverish intensity Beardsley turned out enough drawings to match the output of many who lived two or three times as long. Obviously in most important respects, even down to how exactly he spent the 24 hours of his day, his work was his life, and that is all there is to it.

Admittedly, the jacket holds out provocative prospects: "He has been accused of incest with his sister, Mabel, and of homosexuality." Yes, so? Professor Benkovitz's reply ends up as a guarded not-knowing-can't-say. "From his *Venus and Tannhauser*," she remarks, "Beardsley's sexuality and his sexual practices can be assumed." But she does not tell us how. Presumably Beardsley did not spend much of his life as a lesbian, or even coupling with unicorns. And even someone with all the time in des Esseintes's world for the exploration of unnamable vices could hardly have fitted in quite so many and various as just the few chapters we have hint at. Not that it really matters. Quite likely it was mostly or all in his prodigiously inventive mind, and from there went straight where it most counts, on paper in the form of art. It may be questioned whether we shall need another life of Beardsley for some time if all it is going to do is tell us that.

John Russell Taylor

Sinfonietta/Pay
Round House/Radio 3

Paul Griffiths

The trouble all started with Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments, and so, too, did Sunday's excellent concert by the London Sinfonietta under Antony Pay. Here was a work which denied the old principle that music must make an orderly weave through time, a work which proposed instead a technique of cross-cutting and flashbacks, with elements that are self-contained and independent. The notion of continuous development was simply ignored, and composers were left with the challenge of finding new ways to give music impetus.

A curiously perky performance of the Stravinsky, sounding more like a convocation of birds than the austere liturgy of the composer's imaginings, was still a pertinent overture to two recent British pieces for chamber orchestra, Birtwistle's *Silbury Air* and Oliver Knussen's *Coursing*.

In what is one of his very finest works, Birtwistle develops the Stravinsky method of juxtaposition and overlap to an extraordinary degree, creating an interlocking mesh of ideas — crackling fanfares, supple woodwind polyphonies, anguished high string lines and mechanical tickings—that move forward inexorably as they gain more history and so become more complicated.

Knussen's approach could hardly be more different. His piece begins with the instruments locked to a single rhythmic track, as strong and pliable as a ribbon of steel. Already in these first moments he fulfils the expectations of powerfully directed energy and speed suggested by his title, but he does more: he produces a musical line which goes most definitely forwards and which, while faintly suggesting Messiaen, sounds completely new.

It sounds, too, like the introduction to something more than the six-minute work we heard on Sunday. *Coursing* has grown since its first première nearly two years ago, but apparently it still has some way to go. I am not sorry, therefore, that so much passed by so quickly, that the texture split open and raced to its conclusion so fast, like mercury running through the fingers. For surely Knussen will find ways to take up the ideas he plentifully lets loose here, including beautiful things for solo trumpet, flute and then a group of strings. He has, we already know, a rare gift for the anti-Stravinskian straight line.

Mark McManus: the makings of a Cottesloe man

The production of *The Crucible* which transfers to the Comedy tomorrow after a brief but successful run at the Cottesloe before Christmas marks an end rather than a new beginning. It is the last production to have come out of the very tight-knit company that Bill Bryden created and ran for the National at the Cottesloe while he was still its resident director, a company which was also responsible for such triumphs as the O'Neill seasons, *Lark Rise to Candleford* and *The Passion*. Of the dozen or so actors who made up the nucleus of that company, developing over five years a style that was unmistakably the Cottesloe's own and unlike anything to be found on either of the other National stages, none is more representative than Mark McManus, currently to be found playing the lead in *The Crucible*.

Now 45, McManus is like Bryden a Scot, though one who started his theatre life in Australia. The only son of a coal miner, he emigrated there in the early 1960s:

"I had a romantic notion about travel broadening the mind, and as I'd had no education to speak of there didn't seem to be much chance of my making a living over here. I wanted to go somewhere where they wouldn't keep asking me about the O levels I hadn't got, and Australia seemed somehow far enough away, somewhere where they wouldn't expect anything of me. So I got a job on the docks in Sydney, and lived in a whole succession of lodging houses full of young Italians and Greeks, all working their hides off to get what we all wanted, 'the stake'. That meant enough money to stop for a while and work out what we wanted to do with the rest of our lives. Until you had the stake, cash in the bank, nothing could happen. I've never been so lonely, or worked so hard. Until you go somewhere away from home you've no idea what an immigrant feels like. You're totally adrift, trying to learn the rules just by surviving."

But in fact it was on the docks that McManus first got work as an actor:

"The Sydney Waterside Workers' Federation had a union theatre and they advertised for painters and set-builders so I started rigging up scenery for them in my spare time and then gradually drifted into acting. At the time they were about the only radical theatre group around, at least in Sydney terms: that meant a lot of Brecht and Brendan Behan and no Whitehall farces. Professional directors used to come and moonlight there for the chance to work on decent scripts instead of the commercial rubbish Sydney was then full of, and after about a year one of them offered me the chance to join a professional theatre group so I took it and discovered the rainbow".

Throughout the 1960s McManus stayed in Australia, working in everything from the Tommy Steel role in *Half a Sixpence* through to Shakespearean tours of the outback with not enough actors and no scenery:

"But when you hit the next stop it was as though the circus had come to town. Festival time, everybody came. Then I went back to Sydney, got work in a commercial theatre and used to walk through the town in that silky 4am heat after the show wondering how I'd ever get back to England. The trouble was that I knew I had to: at that time anybody who'd seen the British theatre even as remotely as I had in Scotland knew that it was no good staying in Australia to be an actor. You had to come back here, where real theatre was."

Not that McManus's life in Sydney was uneventful; he got into the controversial Mick Jagger film *Ned Kelly* for a start:

"That came as a fair old shock to the Australian system: Isherwood and Tony Richardson out there in the bush trying to make sense of an impossible script. Then I got a job for £25 a week stage-managing Michael MacLiammóir which meant mainly ironing the shirts he wore as Oscar Wilde. Once he got over the amazing shock of discovering that I was about to get married, he was the most marvellous company, story-telling into the night. In the end he offered to take me round the world with him on the rest of his Wilde tour, playing Jeeves to his eccentric Wooster, and I still rather wish I'd done that. There aren't many like him; Australia was then still a very butch society and every morning he used to open the door to his flat and promenade downstairs wearing the full make-up and a kimono. It took Sydney months to recover from him."

Eventually, in 1970, McManus (by now married with a stepson and a baby on the way) did return to London, armed with nothing but his air fare and a vague introduction to Bill Gaskill at the Royal Court:

"I was 35, and it was like starting out all over again. Nobody wanted to know what I'd done, it took me a year to get any stage work, and in the last ten years I've only really worked for two theatres, the Court and the Cottesloe. England seems to be like that, full of cliques and coteries, and once they brand you as 'a Court actor' or 'a Cottesloe actor' then that's how you stay.

"I've been luckier than some, in that I've had a long-running ITV series (Granada's *Sam*) which makes me at least a vaguely familiar face now; but I really like working in tight little groups and I'm therefore sorry to see the Cottesloe company disband. We weren't necessarily all great socialists or great radicals, but we did seem to have broadly the same attitudes to society and work. Above all we knew how to laugh; you walk around the corridors of the National now and you see all these directors bent double with the weight of their artistic responsibilities and you think where's the fun? If you can't laugh in rehearsal, then it's not worth being an actor at all.

"Of course there are dangers in the company system: principally that when it breaks up the directors usually go off to glamorous jobs in Hollywood or wherever and the actors are left trying to scratch a living back in television. But being an actor is trying for a really good 10 minutes at a time, nothing more. I go in like a tank, and if they put me on a track and say next week Pittburgh in Brecht then that's OK. An actor's life should be doled out by moments.

"But that doesn't mean it's intrinsically better to work in a small theatre for an already committed audience; why do a play for a hundred people when you can do it equally well for a thousand? The Cottesloe company may be finished, but the National itself is still there and those of us who were there at the beginning, when every day Fleet Street was firing all its guns over the river and it was like being at Verdun or in Fort Doom, have retained a certain affection for the place now that it's managing to run. A theatre is always better than the company occupying it at any one time. The theatre lasts longer than any company."

Sheridan Morley

LSO/Berglund
Festival Hall

William Mann

The recent exchange of conductors in our symphony orchestras is broadening the good work of specialists. The other day we heard Haitink interpreting Bruckner, not with the LPO, but the Philharmonia, a different sound for us, a new experience for them. On Sunday, similarly, Paavo Berglund, no longer contracted to Bournemouth, was able to share his Sibelius readings with the London Symphony Orchestra; he gave us the first symphony and, a comparative rarity, *Luonnotar*.

The latter is also a curiosity, being at once a tone poem by description and a solo cantata (I am not aware of another such specimen). There is, actually, not much of descriptive symphonic music in it. The soprano narrates the Finnish legend of the virgin mother of the ocean who allowed a gull to lay eggs upon her knee, inadvertently let them slip, and thus brought the firmament into being. Sibelius sets the scene, provides an interlude for the bird's flight over stormy seas and, when the sung narration is over, stops abruptly.

Yet the music is perfectly characteristic (the opening resembles in atmosphere that of the violin concerto, and the matter-of-fact conclusion that of the fourth symphony) and subtly compelling. Berglund gave the LSO its head in the storm interlude, and provided considerate support for the singer, Phyllis Bryn-Julson, who brought a generous forte and delicate soft phrasing and nuance to her story-telling.

Those of us who remember Sibelius's first symphony as Beecham conducted it, may have been surprised by the rougher, more blatant orchestral sound favoured by Berglund, especially in the first movement where the dauntless LSO trumpeters were given every encouragement, and the rest of the orchestra drawn away from sophisticated euphony. The design of the symphony was faithfully projected, though, and indeed this is, surely, the most garishly scored of Sibelius's symphonies, as in honesty this reading admitted.

We could have done with a foretaste of such enthusiasm before the interval, when Ida Haendel played Elgar's violin concerto with sparkling bravura and a sumptuous cantabile, but without voluminous tone so that, in restraining the orchestra, the conductor fell into a gingerly approach to the impassioned music itself.

London debuts

Julian Hellaby proved himself extremely fluent in an adventurous, demanding programme, the numerous hurdle of Mendelssohn's *Variations sérieuses* appearing not to exist. Yet in this case exceptional mobility brought with it little feeling of superficiality, and the music's constant invention and high level of pianistic complexity made a strong impact. Also, Mendelssohn seemed more of a romantic than usual.

Alas, Mr Hellaby's Busoni was disappointing and ought to have sounded more mysterious. He needs to think, for example, about the significance of Busoni's strange alternations of major and minor. *Turandots Frauengemach* is more than just a virtuoso treatment of "Greensleeves", and the *Berceuse*, the subtitle to the original orchestral version of which reads "Des Mannes Wiegenlied am Sarge seiner Mutter", is more than simply a lullaby.

Ravel's Sonatina was better understood: the "Modéré's" nervosity was apparent, but so also were its grace and delicacy. The sparkle of the finale was of a fairly routine, undifferentiated kind, but the Spanish elements in "Alborada del Gracioso" from *Miroirs* were nicely pointed. Mr Hellaby's technique was fully extended here yet he contained the fierce technical problems and maintained rhythmic accuracy.

The Balakirev Sonata was a welcome inclusion, although its tentative, exploratory opening should have been stated less flatly. Mr Hellaby has a great deal of talent, but he must search more beneath the surface of things rather than let his facility carry him along. Not that this work's rare quality was concealed.

Klara Baranyi started Haydn's Sonata Hob. XVI/31 well, the Moderato being spry and immaculate, the sound clear yet well nourished. The Allegretto also was impressive, having an air of capricious, almost improvisatory freedom that well conveyed the music's sense of adventure. Only the Presto was insufficiently varied in stance, cancelling something of the previous movements' effect.

Schumann's *Humoresque* is a long, episodic piece, its sequence of moods difficult to hold together. Miss Baranyi's performance had some aspiring moments, but the fast passages were sometimes brusque, the slow ones not settled and not inward enough; Schumann's wayward thoughts seemed less fanciful than they really are.

She was more attuned to Franz Blaimschein's Sonata of 1975, which had its British première. This self-confidently athletic piece is exhilarating in its kaleidoscopic manoeuvres and take-it-or-leave-it dissonances. In fact Blaimschein, though unknown to *The New Grove*, is well able to draw impressive sonorities from the piano, even if his actual musical ideas are not exactly memorable in themselves.

The most successful of Miss Baranyi's readings, however, was of the Franck Prelude, Chorale and Fugue, in which the music's somewhat plangent emotionalism was handled with discretion. At another level the rather organ-like textures were held in check, and there was a strong sense of the meaning of individual notes and harmonies. But the approach was essentially spacious, the tone fuller and rounder than hitherto.

In the Adagio of the Sonata op 30 no 2 Rainer Gepp made the Wigmore Hall's Steinway sing more expressively than Christine Raphael's 1754 Guadagnini violin. But perhaps that was due to Beethoven. Musical momentum was perceptively maintained in the other movements, although the Scherzo's high spirits were made to seem of an unduly strenuous kind. Schoenberg's Fantasy, op 47, is nothing if not strenuous, but the interpretation, more secure than the Beethoven and unmistakeably authoritative, suggested Miss Raphael's main sympathies lie with such music. Even the most rarefied passages conveyed great intensity, and the richly detailed writing for both violin and piano was entirely subordinated to the shapely overall impression which this performance desisively created.

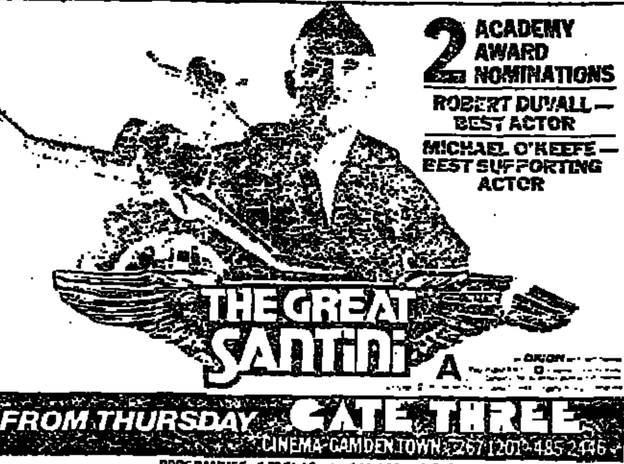
With Debussy's Sonata both players were again responsive to an elusive mode of discourse. Perhaps the outer movements' aereated textures were sometimes made to appear heavier than they really are, but the "Intermède, with its volatile alterations of wayward fantasy and mock vehemence, was sensitively judged. *Jabonah*, a ballet suite on Mongolian themes, by Miss Raphael's father, Gunther Raphael, arranged for violin and piano, was largely a matter of folksy fragments deftly turned this way and that. In "The Robber Princess" the piano part suggested a dour forward-march around which the violin twittered rather inconsequentially. "The Pilgrim" was lyrical in a wandering sort of way. And there were other movements, all ingeniously composed, entertaining and probably effective enough in their original theatrical setting.

My other concert was what might be called a technical debut — "Inaugural concert" was the term used on the leaflet—in that although the players are all well known they had not before appeared as the Thamesis Trio. Christopher Taylor (flute), David Theodore (oboe) and Leslie Pearson began with graceful and well turned pieces by Loeillet, C. P. E. Bach, Vivaldi, etc, performing them with long-practised skill and in particular a rhythmic alacrity not always found in interpretations of such music. For all these Mr Pearson was at the harpsichord, but after the interval he moved to the piano.

William Matthias's *Divertimento* had a pleasingly astringent, pointfully busy set of movements, with some good contrapuntal writing in the central Allegro commodo and some unexpected patterns of accentuation in the Allegro ritmico to which it is joined. Carl Davis's Serenade, which had its first performance, was light music in no especial style.

Jean-Michel Damase's Trio of 1961 claimed more serious attention. It has the somewhat unusual scheme of two quick movements framed by two slow ones and is urbaney melodious yet well crafted. All three instruments are driven quite hard and real compositional advantage is taken of their disparate characters. The range of textures and of types of gesture was impressive.

Max Harrison



Philippe Entremont
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

Both as pianist and conductor Philippe Entremont has been hitherto chiefly concerned with the French repertoire, and so his programme on Sunday afternoon, while conventional in itself, was something of a departure. Even so, the refined cultivation of tone associated with French keyboard music was at once apparent in the intitial variations of Mozart's Sonata K331, where there was much variety of colour within a carefully restricted dynamic range. There was no doubt, either, of the vocal origin of the ornamentation.

The accidents in the final variation were minor yet unfortunate, and the following Minuet was rather fast. Its dance-like character should have been more deliberately insisted upon, and in fact the breadth Mr Entremont gave to the central Trio was more apt. However, the Rondo alla Turca needed more sparkle and spontaneity, and its sectional nature was too evident.

Beethoven's Sonata Op 31 No 3 started with a far more suitable feeling of caprice, a few ideas seeming to be thrown together at random, the rest of the movement being devoted to showing that, as usual, there are no accidents in Beethoven's world. Mr Entremont caught well this impression of ineluctable processes behind apparently chance events.

Fine, too, was the Scherzo, at once explosive and mischievous, another typical Beethovenian mixture. The Minuet normally seems, to me at least, an anti-climax, yet this time the pianist's careful weighting of all those isolated chords gave it more point than hitherto. The finale's furious excursions had plenty of excitement.

Hearing Mr Entremont play Papillons, Op 2, reminded one, perhaps not quite relevantly, of the influence which Schumann's early keyboard writing had on some French composers. He was perfectly in accord with Schumann in his own right, and this piece was full of ardent fantasy—perhaps too much for so youthful an essay. But there was some very impressive playing in the highly detailed quick movements.

Brahms's Handel Variations were also immaculate, and by now seemingly dangerous tempos were no longer a risk.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Law Report March 2 1981

Court of Appeal

Untraced driver's unexplained braking

Elizabeth v Motor Insurers' Bureau Ltd

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Oliver

The unexplained sudden braking of a car is prima facie evidence of negligence. It is important that claims for compensation by victims of untraced drivers which are made to the Motor Insurers Bureau Ltd and consequent arbitrations should appear to be investigated fairly and justly.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by Mr Joyce Francois Elizabeth, of Chatham, Kent, against Mr Justice Stocker's dismissal of his application for an order that the award of Mr B. A. Hytner, QC, in the reference to arbitration before him under the agreement between the bureau and the Secretary of State for the Environment dated November 22, 1972, be remitted to the arbitration for *reconsideration*. The court ordered that the matter should be remitted to another arbitrator.

Mr Elizabeth in person; Mr Henry de Lotbiniere for the bureau.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that some years ago trouble had arisen over drivers who had stolen cars and caused accidents—and perhaps could not be traced. How could the injured party get compensation?

By an agreement of November 22, 1972, between the Motor Insurers' Bureau and the Secretary of State for the Environment provision was made for compensation of victims of untraced drivers. The agreement had many unusual features. The injured person who *was unable to trace the* person responsible was to receive compensation if "on the balance of probabilities the untraced person would be liable to pay damages to the applicant in respect of the . . . injury". It was virtually as if there was an action at law against the untraced person. If the injured person's claim was rejected by the bureau, an appeal could be made to an arbitrator who had to "decide the appeal on the documents submitted to him" without further evidence. It was very important that everything should be done fairly and openly with sympathy to the injured person.

On December 2, 1976, Mr Elizabeth had been driving his motor cycle behind a van when the van braked suddenly and Mr Elizabeth ran into its back. The van went on and the driver was never traced.

Some time afterwards a statement was taken from the driver of a following car, and on that statement the bureau took the view that Mr Elizabeth had not made out his case.

On appeal, the arbitrator had looked at the statements and said that he found it "impossible to say that the applicant had proved on the balance of probabilities that the driver did anything negligent which caused his accident." The arbitrator was clearly putting the burden of proof on Mr Elizabeth when in the circumstances the burden of proof was on the van driver to show why he had suddenly braked.

In *Ritchie's Car Hire Ltd v Bailey* ((1958) 108 LJ 348) a woman who instinctively braked hard to avoid a pheasant which ran in front of her car was held to have been negligent in braking when there was a car behind her: see *Bingham's Motor Claim Cases*, 7th ed (1973), pp 54, 55. It looked as if the arbitrator had not properly applied the burden of proof when the van driver had braked suddenly, apparently without cause and without any explanation. Those matters were well *worthy of consideration.*

It was important in such cases that *fairness and justice* should appear to have been done. The court had a general discretion under the Arbitration Act to remit an award. The appeal should be allowed and the matter remitted to another arbitrator.

Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: L. Bingham & Co.

Queen's Bench Division

'After entry' proof not on immigrant student

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Shaikh

Before Mr Justice Bingham

[Judgment delivered February 19]

An immigrant student who applies for an extension of his leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a full-time student does not, at that stage, have to satisfy the Secretary of State for Home Affairs that he intends to leave the country on completion of those studies as he is required to do by rule 17 of the Statement of Immigration Rules for Control on Entry: EEC and other Non-Commonwealth Nationals, on his original application for entry into the country. Nor does the mere fact that he expresses a desire to remain in the United Kingdom if permitted to do so of itself disentitle him from the grant of such an extension under rule 12 of the Statement of Immigration Rules for Control after Entry: EEC and Other Non-Commonwealth Nationals.

The Divisional Court allowed an application for judicial review by the applicant, Shaikh Muneer Ahmad, a citizen of Pakistan studying in the United Kingdom, and quashed the decision of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal that he was not entitled under the Immigration Act, 1971, and the Statement of Immigration Rules for Control after entry, to a *variation of his conditions of his* leave to remain in the country to enable him to continue his studies on the ground that he had not shown that he intended to leave the country on completion of the studies.

Rule 17 of the statement of Immigration Rules for Control on Entry provides: "An applicant is to be refused an entry clearance as a student if the officer is not satisfied that the aplicant is able, and intends, to follow a full-time course of study and to leave the country on completion of it . . ."

Rule 12 of the Statement of Immigration Rules for Control after Entry provides: "Applications from students or would-be students for variation of their leave will consist mainly of applications for extension of stay as a student. An extension for an appropriate period, normally up to 12 months, may be granted if the applicant produces evidence, which, is verified by a check being made, that he has enrolled for a full-time course of day-time study which meets the requirements for admission as a student; that he is giving regular attendance; and that he has adequate funds available for his maintenance and that of any dependants. When an extension is granted the student may be reminded that he will be expected to leave at the end of his studies."

Mr Ian MacDonald for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

MR JUSTICE BINGHAM said that in October, 1973, the applicant received leave to enter the United Kingdom for 12 months to pursue a three-year course at Essex University, but finding that course unsuitable he had transferred to Manchester Polytechnic to take a two-year HND course in computer studies. He completed that course in 1978. In the meantime he had been granted several extensions of his leave to remain, each for 12 months except the last extension which was due to expire in July, 1978. In June, 1978, the applicant applied to the Secretary of State for another extension as he wished to pursue a further three-year course for which he had been *accepted* by the polytechnic.

The Home Office wrote asking him what his future intentions and long-term plans were. The applicant replied: "I intend to start a career in the computing field. I like to start my career in this country. If you grant me permission to start work in this country, then I can join evening classes in advance computing/printing. My long-term ambition lies in a good career in computing field and long-term service for United Kingdom industries."

The Secretary of State took the view that by that letter the applicant had made it clear that he considered his future lay in the United Kingdom (an interpretation which Mr MacDonald, for the applicant, submitted could not fairly be extracted from the letter). The Secretary of State was not satisfied that the applicant intended to leave the United Kingdom on completion of his studies and refused the application.

On appeal, the adjudicator accepted the applicant's evidence that he had no intention of remaining in the United Kingdom beyond the end of his new course and allowed the appeal, directing that permission to remain be granted until the conclusion of his course subject to satisfactory progress.

The Secretary of State appealed to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, who allowed the appeal. The crux of their decision was that in the light of the applicant's letter "the Secretary of State could not possibly be satisfied . . . that once the applicant has completed his new course of study he would depart from the United Kingdom. The onus was on the applicant to satisfy the Secretary of State that he would then depart; he had not discharged that onus; . . . He expressly stated that he had in mind, if permitted, staying on to work in the *first instance in this country.* He had an intention not to depart but to remain at any rate for a time, and the facts that he had no intention of remaining illegally and that his purpose was to gain experience do not qualify him to stay."

In challenging that decision, Mr MacDonald submitted that an applicant had to show an intention to leave at the end of his studies on his application to enter the country, by rule 17 of the Statement of Immigration Rules for Control on Entry, but that in the light of the wording of rule 12 of the Control after Entry Rules, he was not required to prove the same intention at the later stage of an application to vary the conditions *of his leave to remain*, and that the tribunal's decision was therefore wrong in imposing a burden on the applicant to prove that intention.

Mr Brown contended that the rules had to be read together and that it would be irrational to have different rules operating at the two stages.

In his Lordship's judgment, the rules had to be read together as they formed part of a coherent scheme governing immigration into the country and permission to remain in it, and it would be absurd to read the rules in isolation. But it was also necessary to give effect to the language used unless it led to absurdity or inconvenience so gross as to have been clearly outside anyone's contemplation. It was not irrational that a burden should be imposed on an applicant seeking to enter the country which was not in terms imposed on him if he sought to extend his stay. Thus it was not incumbent on the applicant to satisfy the Secretary of State that he intended to leave at the end of his studies, although it was necessary for him to satisfy the authorities that he was a bona fide student.

However, the real question was whether, if the applicant's intention was to leave at the end of his studies but to remain in the the United Kingdom if permitted to do so, the provisional intention to remain disabled him as a candidate for an extension of leave.

In R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Perween Khan ((1972) 1 Imm AR 268), Lord Widgery said: "The fact that the immigrant has in mind the possibility, . . . of being allowed to stay in this country should not . . . affect his or her right of entry, provided that the course of instruction is the primary purpose with which the entry into this country is made." Although that case was concerned with different rules and a different Act, it gave some assistance in disavowing the view that a would-be immigrant, on entering the country, had to show a positive intention to go home again, and that he was disbarred if he had in mind the possibility of being allowed to stay in the country.

Under some circumstances the Home Office could allow immigrants lawfully in the country as students to remain for an additional period as trainees; it would be harsh and unrealistic if a student who admitted a desire to take advantage of those possibilities should be excluded, whereas one who kept his hopes dark profited from that concealment. Accordingly, the fact that the applicant would have wished to stay in the country after completion of his course if his extension was granted, and if he were permitted to do so, should not of itself disentitle him to the extension which he sought. In a case where an applicant was suspected of having some collateral purpose, and in particular an unlawful purpose, or had any intention of abusing, flouting, or breaching the conditions of leave to enter a different situation would arise

In the circumstances the Immigration Appeal Tribunal had misdirected itself. The decision would be quashed and the matter remitted to the tribunal for redetermination in accordance with the judgment of the court.

Solicitors: Mrs Sushma Lal; Treasury Solicitor.

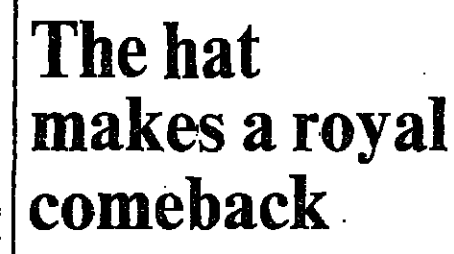
Fashion by Suzy Menkes

☐ Right: Patent straw and feather hat £42 in red, navy, *off white or black by Frederick Fox* from his salon at 87-91 New Bond Street, London W1, Harrods, 1b Jorgensen, 18 Sloane Street, London SW1, Peter Gilmore of Cardiff, Sacs of Altrincham, Scofields of Harrogate and Rudolph of Glasgow. Black and white finely striped spotted pure silk jacket £129, matching fine stripe skirt £85 and striped jersey T-shirt £39 all by Roland Klein from his shop 26 Brook Street, London W1, Harvey Nichols, Richard Allen of Dublin and Dorothy Rowley of Walsall. Open-work gloves £3.25 in assorted colours by Dent-Fownes from Army & Navy, Owen Owen and Dingles branches. Pearl, lapis, crystal and gold tie necklace £1,200 from Sloane Pearls, Sloane Street, London SW1. Earrings from Ivor Gordon, 49b Sloane Street, London SW1.

☐ Far right top: Fine straw and heavy net hat with hand painted flowers designed by David Shilling available in any colour combination from David Shilling, 36 Marylebone High Street, London W1. Pure silk crêpe de chine floral print jacket and matching skirt £174 on white or green ground, Hurel jersey vest in pink or turquoise all by Caroline Charles from her shop 9 Beauchamp Place, London SW3. Harrods designer room, Simpson's of Piccadilly, Helen Sykes of Leeds, Regalia of Troon, R. W. Forsythe of Edinburgh, Joan Ponting of Birmingham, and Dorothy Rowley of Walsall. Earrings from Ivor Gordon 49b Sloane Stret, London SW1.

☐ Far right bottom: Fine jersey pill-box hat with crocus spray £61 in pink or white (other colours to order) by Dolores from Selfridges, Dalys of Glasgow and Jacqueline Morgan of Wombourne. Silk wrap dress £155 and bigger spot blazer £155 in pink, navy, red, royal blue or yellow, by Jasper Conran from Shaws, 48 Beauchamp Place, London SW3, Lucienne Philips of Knightsbridge, Popingay 2 of Chichester and Marian Gale of Dublin. Diamond and pearl drop earrings from Art Nouveau specialist Ivor Gordon 49b Sloane Street, London SW1. Pearl choker with enamel clasp from Sloane Pearls, 49 Sloane Street, London SW1.

Photographs by Serge Krouglikoff. Hair by Dar at Clifford Stafford. Make-up by Davis Garvin at The Model Agency.



The hat makes a royal comeback

Inside every jeans-wearing, Metro-driving, hard-working, flat-sharing girl, there is a romantic heroine in a large hat longing to get out.

The excuse for writing about hats is, of course, the forthcoming Royal wedding. The proof that all women secretly long to see themselves in a hat lay on the floor of my office last week. As the flock of hats nested in snowy tissue paper in their large boxes, every woman passer-by from 18 to 50 came to look and try on, until I was protecting the precious model hats from the predators as anxiously as a mother osprey.

I come from a generation that has no idea how to wear a hat. Because we put them on only for the rarest of events, we are shy about buying them, hopeless about fitting them and confused about what a hat is supposed to be doing for our chosen outfits.

"Many women don't even know their head size", says royal milliner Frederick Fox despairingly. "If you can't get a hat on, it doesn't look right. And if you haven't worn hats, you need help. A hat is rather like a chiffon dress—it looks nothing on the hanger."

Frederick Fox's hats hang in his Bond Street salon on the branches of a hat tree, or are perched elegantly on embryonic wooden blocks. They are mostly small and shiny, little toadstools of lacquered straw or veiled pill-boxes blossoming with flowers.

Scattered around the salon are photographs of Frederick Fox's most famous conjuring trick: the transformation of Princess Michael of Kent from a large, raw boned lady under a mushroom cloud of hat, into a crisply elegant Princess in a small slanted pill-box trimmed with seductive veiling.

I stood in front of the large mirror in my trouser suit, while Freddy popped his featherlight creations on to my windswept hair. The right hat, I realized, like the right house or the right man, can be recognized when you see it. I looked surprisingly good in most of them.

But you do not stand much chance of finding a suitable hat for your outfit if you try to impose a grand occasion hat on your workaday clothes, according to David Shilling, who unveils his new collection of spring and summer headwear this morning.

He expects women to bring in their clothes, or at least to have sketches and swatches of colour for him to work from.

"The crucial thing is to get the balance right between the outfit and the hat", he explains. "If someone comes to me with a shocking pink outfit, I will probably decide to play down the hat. I don't think that the greatest compliment to me is for someone to exclaim "Oh, what a marvellous hat."

David's personal *bête noire* is shoulder length hair weeping beneath a large-brimmed hat. He says that to give oneself a chance with a hat, you need to pull your hair right back, put the hat on and work the hair-style round it, and also to concentrate make-up in the eye area. *Frederick* Fox remarks that Lady Diana will have to lose her fringe if she is to wear hats successfully.

When I saw our hairdresser Dar working to give the elegance of a chignon to our model's short, spiky hair, I realized that a big occasion needs the full professional treatment.

The pheasant's feathers clearly come after the egg: you must choose the outfit first. This summer we are fortunate in that the soft crêpe de chine separates which is what most people will choose for wedding/Ascot outfits, are particularly easy to wear.

Since silk blazers, pleated shantung skirts and crêpe de chin T-shirts are simply extensions of our daily sports wear in more glamorous fabrics, we should not feel shy and uncomfortable about getting dressed up.

But what about those hats? Frederick Fox says that his best clients are those who own racehorses and are used to wearing hats to cheer their steeds past the winning post.

For someone like me, whose only recent brush with millinery was a woolly hat bought for skiing, it needs more practise. That is exactly what you should do, according to David Shilling, who suggested wearing the hat around the house a couple of days before the big event ("any wedding *is a very long day*".) *Model hats are*, of course, particularly light, well-fitting and comfortable. The difference in weight between a giant featherlight straw by Dior (at £90) and a far smaller flower trimmed straw boater from a chain store is remarkable.

The grand milliners are looking forward with some trepidation to a very busy season. Since the hall-marks of a good hat are its hand-made trimmings, hand-dyed feathers and veils hand-spun with the skill of a spider, they are expecting many an anxious and sleepless night.

Perhaps, like the Tailor of Gloucester, *they will find a helpful band of mice to see* them through.

Net veil hat £18.50 in white or cream from the Bermona bridal collection exclusive to Harrods hat department or by mail order from Harrods £1.60 p & p. Viscose wrap dress and matching jacket £35.99 in navy or burgundy from most branches of Wallis. Freshwater pearl twist choker with lapis and diamond clasp £2,490 from Sloane Pearls, 49 Sloane Street, London SW1. Diamond and pearl drop earrings £1,000 plus VAT from Ivor Gordon 49b Sloane Street, London SW1.

■ Like a Venetian blind opening up to the sun, spring shoes are letting in a breath of fresh air.

Shapes have changed very little since the pump and the loafer established themselves as the comfiest shoe fashion for years.

But the new footwear is given a light-weight look by the use of punching, mesh or lattice work, mostly fashioned out of the traditional leather.

If you want to tip toe through the tulips in open-toed cut-away sandals, there are plenty of those around already in the shops. But the more conventional shoes, with the look, but not the feel of open air, are a practical compromise between our hopes of warmer weather and the reality.

☐ Mesh peep-toes, £36.99, in navy or white from main branches of Russell & Bromley. Punched shoes with tan underlay, £52, in navy, red, beige, white or khaki green, from Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, London, SW3. Punched sling back by Jordache, £26, in white/pink, white/beige, white/blue, from all branches of Chelsea Cobbler and selected branches of Rayne. Patent leather and mesh shoes, £26, in bone, black, navy, red or white, from all branches of Rayne. Woven leather wedge heel shoes, £16.99, in white, natural, navy or tan. from all branches of Bally from next month. Multi-coloured interwoven shoes, £24, in blue, peach, green or white, by Soda, from all Rider shoe shops, South Molton Street, Kings Road and Sloane Street. White flattie with contrast laces and eyelets, £49.50, from Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, London, SW3.

Illustration by Duncan Mil

Football

Hooliganism is under control but concern remains over racism

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

While hearing from the police that they were getting on top of the problem of violence at football matches, a conference on hooliganism held in London yesterday listened to a warning from the secretary of the Football League, Graham Kelly, that "racism must not take a hold on the terraces".

Mr Kelly said that whether there was any real evidence of racism, or if it was merely "the latest fashion" the problem had to be nipped in the bud. He said: "We cannot and must not allow football to be used in this way". However, Chief Superintendent David Polkinghorne, of New Scotland Yard, said: "I haven't seen any large numbers of people who are racists on the terraces."

Chief Superintendent Polkinghorne said that teenagers were ideal material for racist groups, but he wondered whether people were "a little sensitive to the problem". He saw the terraces as "a ground for racial harmony, where working class blacks and whites stand side by side. I don't see it as a problem".

He was also more optimistic than some about the whole problem of hooliganism. The Safety of Sports Grounds Act had made the job of the police easier because of crowd segregation and he had no evidence that the violence that had been removed from the terraces was now occurring outside. Even so, he admitted: "The bad are still coming and the good are still staying away."

Most speakers at the conference organized by the Football Trust dwelt on identification and control of hooligans, with considerable time spent on opinions on closed circuit television, fencing and the transport of crowds. Jimmy Hill, speaking as chairman of Coventry City, chided them for ideas that turned grounds into "concentration camps". He said: "They should be places of entertainment, places to be happy. The only way is to make sure that hooligans do not go to football matches. We must get all-seater stadiums, then we will have a product that is marketable. I cannot see any other answer."

There was general support for a call by Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football Association's disciplinary committee, for a concerted effort to cure the problem. "But in the first instance we need a lead from the government", he said. He was not altogether happy with the cooperation they had received. The FA had asked the government whether passports of troublemakers at matches abroad could be removed, but he said: "There is little hope."

Mr Millichip was disturbed that, despite trouble with English supporters at last summer's European Championship in Italy, the FA had no control over the distribution of tickets for the World Cup in Spain next year. He said: "They have been given to a newly-formed company we don't know. It is giving us a great problem."

A remark by Dr Cyril Smith, chairman of the Joint Social Science Research Council, that football was not sensitive to the majority of people who followed the game and, to some extent, had always "talked to itself and not the wider public" was accepted by Mr Kelly, who agreed that there had always been insularity. However, Mr Kelly rejected the impression that football had done nothing about its problems, but he said the efforts had been made in low profile in a "defensive" way.

Suggestions that all-seater stadia were lacking in atmosphere and were no guarantee of a peaceful crowd found no sympathy with Christopher Anderson, vice-chairman of Aberdeen. He said that at Pittodrie, where there was no standing, the crowd still showed their feelings, but the potential troublemakers could be spotted quickly and the number of people arrested over a season was "minimal". Drunkenness had been greatly reduced by a ban on the sale of alcohol in the ground, and youngsters were encouraged to be involved

Terry Rutter, stadium manager at Aston Villa, was one who doubted that football ever had families to lose and blamed "dirty old stadia" with standards applicable to the turn of the century. He added: "Football should be fun, not an endurance test".

A proposal from the FA that parents should have to pay fines imposed on young offenders had met with a cautious reply from the government, who saw it as "a tricky situation in law", according to Mr Millichip. Parents were also asked to be more responsible by Dr Douglas Acres, chairman of the Sentencing of Young Offenders Committee of the Magistrates Association.

Ipswich trek to Europe with Burley burden

From Clive White
St Etienne, March 2

On the eve of the most critical period in their life Ipswich Town were informed today that one of their most influential players would be out of the game for the next six months. This was the verdict of a specialist on the right knee of George Burley, their neat, twinkle-toed full back.

It hung like a weight around this buoyant club when they flew out of Southend airport for their Uefa Cup fourth-round tie with St Etienne on Wednesday. What everyone had quietly hoped would mean a simple cartilage operation was diagnosed as torn lateral ligaments—six weeks in plaster, six weeks of physiotherapy and three months of hard work and prayers.

Bobby Robson, who has a closer relationship with his players than most managers, was particularly upset for the youngster he regards as the best right back in the country. "We are blessed with a preponderance of left-sided players, which could be one of the reasons for our success, but Burley gives us options on the right, he is such an intelligent player."

Burley, one of the original members of this side, could find himself watching Ipswich in two finals this year, if they can first lift themselves over the enormous obstacle presented by St Etienne. "This one on Wednesday will be for Burley," Mr Robson assured us.

There are still doubts surrounding the soundness of another Scot, Wark, whose contribution of nine goals in this competition is unthinkable for a midfield player. He aggravated a hamstring strain by foolishly (he says) playing in Tel Aviv last week for the national side. I doubt whether Mr Robson will allow him the same mistake three times.

The manager has still not forgiven him for playing with an injury in a league match two years ago at Maine Road when he had to come off after a few minutes and Ipswich lost. "I told him then, 'Don't you ever do that to me again'", Mr Robson said. If sprints tomorrow evening even him at a weakness, McCall will deputize. The warm sun here should help.

Ipswich, of course, have shown themselves capable of covering each other more than adequately during injuries. They have won seven successive matches without Burley, and McCall stepped into a highly polished 4—0 win at Coventry on Saturday, when he struck a goal from 25 yards just as Wark used to do until perfectly timed runs showed him a shorter route to the net. But winning is a habit sustained by confidence. Once it is dented, doubts creep in. St Etienne will knock that Ipswich veneer harder than anyone these past two months.

Rugby Union

Rees steps out of Welsh shadows for the fourth time in seven years

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Clive Rees, the London Welsh wing, has been recalled by his national selectors to play against France in Paris on Saturday. David Richards (Swansea) has been switched to the centre again in place of the injured Peter Morgan, of Llanelli, who fractured three ribs in the Irish match at Cardiff and will not play again this season. In other respects, the Welsh XV, for a game in which victory for either side would ensure them of at least a share of the championship, will be the same as that which defeated Ireland 9—8. The captain and No 8, Jeff Squire, has recovered from the back injury which kept him out of Pontypool's cup side last Saturday.

Rees has been having a fine season for his club and was a strong contender when the selectors chose their side for the last international. He now wins a fourth cap in an international career spanning seven seasons, much of it spent in the shadows of Gerald Davies and J. J. Williams. His first match for Wales was against Ireland in 1974. A year later he played against Australia. Then he had to wait three more years before he was chosen against New Zealand.

The return of Richards to the centre produces, with Ray Gravell, a new midfield partnership for Wales. It was one that served the Lions well in their handsome victory over Transvaal last summer, until Richards suffered a dislocation of a shoulder that marked the end of his tour. Wales will hope that Richards can recapture his old sparkle. If the midfield can manufacture some openings, the pace of Rees should be an extra bonus.

The selectors keep faith in their Bridgend half backs, Gerald Williams and Gary Pearce, having resisted any temptation they may have felt to restore Gareth Davies at standoff half. Pearce, by all accounts had a difficult baptism against Ireland, but it was his dropped goal that won the game for Wales and if a younger player of promise is worth one cap, then he ought to be worth another. The confidence of his selectors should do him no harm at all.

Rees: flying on a Welsh wing and a prayer to Paris.

The arrival of Mark Douglas (Llanelli) as the reserve scrum half is noteworthy. Here is a young player, still only 19, of considerable potential. The latest All Blacks rated him highly, and that was no surprise, because he had an excellent game against them.

Jean-Luc Joinel, the French flanker, has been switched to No. 8 in place of Manuel Carpentier, who may shortly have an operation for the removal of a growth on his shin and seems likely to miss the England game at Twickenham as well. A new cap, Pierre Lacans (Beziers), who is 23, has been brought in on the flank.

WALES: G. Evans (Maesteg); C. Rees (London Welsh), R. W. R. Gravell (Llanelli), D. S. Richards (Swansea), D. L. Nicholas (Llanelli); G. Pearce (Bridgend), G. Williams (Bridgend); I. Stephens (Bridgend), A. J. Phillips (Cardiff), G. Price (Pontypool), A. J. Martin (Aberavon), C. A. D. Wheel (Swansea), R. C. Burgess (Ebbw Vale), J. R. Lewis (Cardiff), J. Squire (Pontypool, captain). Replacements: A. Donovan (Swansea), G. Davies (Cardiff), M. Douglas (Llanelli), C. Williams (Swansea), S. Jones (Pontypool), C. Davies (Newbridge).

Freak Irish goal makes up for earlier misses

By Iain Mackenzie

Scottish Univs 1 Irish Univs 1

A freak goal five seconds from time gave the Irish Universities the draw they thoroughly deserved in the bitter cold of the Edinburgh University pitch at Peffermill yesterday. The Irish commanded the midfield for most of the game, ought to have won, and would have had not their number nine, McGinley, produced a string of misses in the last eight minutes.

Punching into the teeth of an easterly gale in the second half, the mixed Irish side of seven from the North and four from the South made the Scottish defence look fragile indeed. McLaughlin, operating mainly on the right wing, used his dribbling skills to excellent effect and often had the Scots bemused and bothered.

Had McGinley been able to finish the work begun so admirably by McLaughlin, and McAfee too, the Irish would have gone home smiling on this morning's three o'clock boat from Stranraer.

It was ironic that the Irish goal, for which they had worked so hard was a fluke which came when the referee was drawing breath for the final long blast. The ball was crossed into the packed goalmouth where McLaughlin could not make contact. Neither could Torrance, and the ball dropped and spun over the line. Carney lunged and got a foot to it, but the ball stopped (for the Scots) just too far on the wrong side.

The Scottish goal, in sharp contrast, was a thing to acclaim. Twenty minutes into the second half their skipper Gillespie, a Highlander from Fort William who is wanted by Dunfermline Athletic when he finishes his studies at Edinburgh, saw a gap and shot in the same moment. He was all of thirty yards out but Harding in goal was left stranded.

Those moments apart, it was a game which met the weather halfway, grey and cheerless and not one, the Scots, in particular, will remember for long. Gillespie, Torrance and occasionally the left-winger Cook were the only ones given much respect by an Irish side which could so easily have won a match they so nearly lost.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES: N. Torrance (Strathclyde); M. Carney (Edinburgh), W. Moncur (Edinburgh), J. McDaid (Stirling), E. Gillespie (Edinburgh, capt), B. Sloan (Edinburgh), R. Bell (Heriot-Watt), K. Millican (Dundee), T. Henderson (Heriot-Watt), D. Ross (Heriot-Watt), N. Cook (Edinburgh).

IRISH UNIVERSITIES: K. Harding (Queen's), P. Cowley (UCD), F. Collins (UC Cork), D. Courtney (UCD), M. Cullen (Queen's, capt), M. McCoy (Queen's), B. McLaughlin (Queen's), D. McAfee (NUU), S. McGinley (NUU), R. Casaldy (NUU), H. McConkey (Stranmillis).

Referee: E. Thomson (Edinburgh).

Newport will do town and County proud in Jena

English teams are battling for three European titles this season. But the Welsh are quick to point out that there is a fourth British team in action tomorrow. Little Newport County from the third division, who nearly folded not long ago, flew out yesterday to face Carl Zeiss Jena, of East Germany, in the European Cup-Winner's Cup quarter-final round.

Their manager, Len Ashurst, says: "We will have to be at our best with all our thought and concentration on the job in hand. We must work for each other, try to keep possession and, if we can do that, we can come away with a result that will give us and our fans plenty of encouragement for the second leg on March 18. But be assured of one thing—we will do the club and town proud."

Mr Ashurst's side warmed up for the trip with a 5—1 thrashing of Chesterfield on Saturday, their biggest win of the season, and came through without injuries. But they will be without their record signing, Alan Waddle, the £80,000 striker from Swansea, who is ineligible and injured.

While Newport are in action in East Germany, West Ham, the FA Cup holders, League Cup finalists and the second division leaders, are at home to Dinamo Tbilisi in the same competition. Alan Devonshire, their midfield player, was unable to train yesterday because of a knee injury but is expected to be fit for tomorrow night's tie.

Alvin Martin took a full part in training despite a five-stitch cut in his head and Pike's knee injury had improved sufficiently for him to train, too. The midwinter break in the Soviet season means that West Ham have been unable to see Tbilisi in action.

John Lyall, the West Ham manager, is treating the game almost as a holiday for his players. "This game gives us something else to think about, a little bit of a break away from our league ambition", he said. "Though we are eight points clear in the second division, promotion in our first priority and we cannot afford to relax there. Everything else is a bonus, but we could not be better prepared for Wednesday's game. We're in excellent form and confidence is high."

Liverpool, attempting to win a third European Cup, have a doubt in Johnson, who has a muscle strain, for the visit of CSKA Sofia, who put out Nottingham Forest. A measure of CSKA's challenge is that they have been beaten at home only once in 21 consecutive seasons in European competition.

Kevin Keegan tips his former club to go through. "I wouldn't bet against them", he said after his Southampton side were beaten 2—0 on Saturday. "The more people knock Liverpool the more it is likely to help them win the European Cup. They have had three or four bad injuries that would have killed off most teams, but I couldn't see much wrong with their performance against us."

Four in two for Maradona

Diego Maradona scored twice for Boca Juniors, his new club, in their 2—2 draw with Instituto Cordoba in Argentina's first division on Sunday. He has struck four goals in two matches, three of them penalties. On Sunday, the 20-year-old scored a penalty and then brilliantly crowned a solo run.

Maradona was signed by Boca last month on a one-year loan, at a fee announced as $4 million.

Eintracht Braunschweig, of the second division, knocked Hamburg, last year's European Cup finalists, out of the West German cup, 4—3 after extra time, in the quarter final round on Sunday.

There are two second division sides in the semi final round for the first time since 1963, as Hertha Berlin dashed Fortuna Düsseldorf's hopes of winning the cup for the third successive time by beating them 2—1.

Fortuna had won 18 consecutive national cup-ties since the 1978 final. Hertha went 2—0 up through Killmaier and Remark before Thomas Allofs pulled one back 20 mintues from the end.

The semi final round draw is Hertha against Eintracht Frankfurt, 2—1 winners over Stuttgart, and Braunschweigh against Kaiserslautern, 3—1 conquerors of Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Roma took back the Italian league leadership on Sunday, beating Torino 2—0. Internazionale of Milan, the defending champions, were tied with Roma for first place before losing to Napoli 1—0. Juventus of Turin retained second place by beating Bologna 5—1, and Inter fell back to third.

Juventus overpowered Bologna in Bologna, to avenge an earlier 1—0 defeat. Liam Brady, the Irish midfield player, scored twice for Juventus. Brady, who returned after missing two games with an injured leg, struck in the first half.

Middlesbrough without two at Forest

Middlesbrough will be without Hodgson, England's under-21 international centre forward, and Ashcroft, their centre half, against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground tonight. Hodgson, with a groin injury, and Ashcroft, a calf injury, are under treatment and face a battle to be fit for the FA Cup sixth round tie against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Ayrsome Park on Saturday.

Hutchison has not been ruled out of Manchester City's FA Cup tie at Everton despite fears last week that he might be out for the rest of the season. Hutchison sees a specialist on Thursday for a check-up on a pelvic strain.

Yesterday's results

FA TROPHY: Third round replay: Worcester City 2, Hastings United 1. Third round, second replay: Aylesbury United 1, Northwich Victoria 0 (at Enderby).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bedford Town 3, Banbury United 1. Southern division: Poole Town v Salisbury—postponed.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Brentwood 4, Essex Schools 1.

VIAREGGIO: International youth tournament, final: Roma 2, Ipswich Town 0. Third place play-off: Napoli 2, Juventus 1.

OTHER MATCH: Scottish Universities 1, Irish Universities 1.

RUGBY UNION: Club match: Bath 3, Pontypridd 12. Correction: Chichester HS 3, Reigate GS 14 (played on Saturday).

HOCKEY: Representative match: British Polytechnics 2, UAU 3. Women's representative match: UAU 5, British Polytechnics 0.

Midlands challenge is at home in cup

By Peter West

The draw for the quarter final round of the John Player Cup, made in London yesterday, produced home ties for Leicester, the holders, as well as for the other Midland clubs, Moseley and Nottingham. It was accompanied, too, by a welcome announcement that the Rugby Football Union and the sponsors have concluded an agreement which will prolong the event for at least another three seasons, with a financial benefit to English rugby of just over a quarter of a million pounds.

Leicester, last beaten in the cup in 1978 (by Gloucester in the final), will entertain Sale on Saturday week. Moseley will play Metropolitan Police, whose fourth round victory over Rosslyn Park at Imber Court last Saturday was thoroughly well earned. Nottingham, winners over Bath by a single point, will take on Gosforth, who will be on the road yet again, away from home for the 19th time in 27 cup matches.

The remaining tie, and perhaps the most interesting, matches London Scottish against Gloucester at the Athletic Ground. This will be a repeat of a second round encounter in 1974, when Scottish won at Kingsholm on their way to the final, in which they lost to Coventry. The Scottish have beaten Wasps and Orrell in their last two ties. Gloucester had a narrow squeeze at Southend before putting out London Irish, the 1980 runners-up, with a much more convincing victory. They beat Scottish 13—8 at Kingsholm in early January, but the losers scored two tries against one on a day when their national trial left them below strength.

Having beaten Northampton (away) and Coventry (at home) Sale now have their hardest Midlands nut to crack before aspiring to a place in the semi-final round for the third time. When they reached that stage in 1973, they had a home victory, 7—0, over the Tigers in the quarter final

Metropolitan Police, in the last eight for the first time in eight years, are not in the least deterred by the prospect of playing at The Reddings against a club that has been in two finals. Denzil Jones, their chairman, said: "There are no gift draws for anybody at this stage, but after winning at Camborne, and beating the fancied Park side, we have got to see ourselves as having a decent chance against Moseley." Nottingham, fresh members of the last eight, are pleased to be hosting Gosforth, who won the cup in 1976 and 1977. They won at Gosforth in December, on the day when the inter-divisional championship was decided.

John Player prize money next season will be increased from £67,000 to £75,000. In 1982-83 it will rise to £85,000, and in 1983-84, to £96,000. The total over a three-year period will be £256,000, and by the end of it the sponsors will have put up £558,500 over nine seasons. The president of the RFU, John Kendall-Carpenter said: "So many people in rugby regard the John Player cup as the best thing that has happened to our game for the last 20 years or more."

Quarter-final draw

Moseley v Metropolitan Police.
Nottingham v Gosforth.
Leicester v Sale.
London Scottish v Gloucester.
Ties to be played on March 14.

Change of shirt, but not of heart, for Bath

By Alan Gibson

Bath 3 Pontypridd 12

Bath began the season with high hopes, which have not altogeter been fulfilled, partly through ill luck. Unexpectedly knocked out of the cup in a splash last Saturday, and in trouble with qualifying for it next year, they needed a good win to restore their spirits for the last couple of months of the season. They did not get it, nor ever looked much like getting it. Pontypridd, the first Welsh side to win on the Recreation Ground since October, 1978, scored a goal and two penalty goals against a penalty goal.

It was a damp evening with a soggy pitch, conditions which do not often suit Bath. Yet it did not rain during the match, and though the footing was treacherous the ball was not too slippery for handling. It was a good match, both sides trying bravely to keep the play open. On a dry day they might have given us a spanker.

In the first quarter each side missed reasonable chances of penalty goals. The Pontypridd pack were gradually getting on top, and shortly before half-time Bath were in a series of scrapes close to their own line. At last, after a maul on the right, Poole broke inwards to score beneath the posts. Hodgkinson converted, so Pontypridd led 6—0 at half-time.

In the second half Martin kicked a penalty for Bath, and Horton, who had an excellent game and looked fit, often gained ground for them with kicks and sometimes with dodgy runs. But the Pontypridd forwards remained in command, and although there were no more tries, they had earned the two further penalties which Hodgkinson kicked.

Bath changed their jerseys in the last quarter, from yellow to red, which, since Pontypridd were now looking entirely Bible-black with just a red touch on their backs where their numbers were, soon made for more confusion than clarity. Possibly the fresh jerseys may have made Bath feel more comfortable for a little, but in any case it did not matter. Pontypridd had a firm grip on the match. They had not played the weekend and were celebrating their own St David's Day.

BATH: C. Martyn; D. Trick, J. Palmer, M. Beese, D. Wyatt; J. Horton, S. Lewis; R. Lee, S. Lusmoore, K. Neale, A. Marriott, N. Williams, G. Parsons, R. Spurrell, P. Lye.

PONTYPRIDD: J. Hazard; A. Rose, J. Pole, M. Edwards, M. Lewis; M. Hodgkinson, R. Dyer; K. Salmon, M. Alexander, N. Wilding, R. Pemberthy, N. Roper, W. Peckham, T. David, C. Smith.

Referee: A. Gibbs (Warwickshire).

Ice skating

Dance pair could outdo even Cousins

From John Hennessy
Hartford, March 2

We face the unusual prospect i the World figure skating chan pionships, here in Connecticut th week, of installing new holders all five titles. In three cases th is unavoidable, because of tw retirements from the amateu ranks, and an injury that ha forced Anett Pötzsch, of Ea Germany, to leave the sport pe manently. Only Marina Cherkaso and Sergei Shakhrai, of the Sovi Union, stand their ground, b their defeat in the European chan pionships, last month, is no happ omen.

Robin Cousins's departure the professional ranks leaves a aching British void, but Jayn Torvill and Christopher Dea have made such a rapid advanc in the ice dance event that w may still hope to bring home gold medal. Curiously, that w the one achievement that evade Cousins. Miss Torvill and h partner beat both the Olymp champions Natalia Linichuk an Gennadi Karponosov and form world champions in Irina Mo seyeva and Andrei Minenkov win the European championshi and on that evidence should b the favourites here, especially the Olympic champions have bee withdrawn from the Russian tean

But under the new scoring sy tem there was little between th British couple and Miss Moiseyev and her husband for all th British supremacy in the compu sories and marginal advantage the free dance. A third excitin ingredient is the growing cha lenge of the talented America champions, Judy Blumberg an Michael Seibert, under the tu tion of a former British worl title holder, Doreen MacSalk (née Denny). Given a dazzlin new Russian second string in Na alia Bestemianova, albeit with rather statuesque partner, th final next Saturday should brin down the curtain on a spectacula note.

A wealth of European talent h emerged from the shadows recent cast by Cousins and the Germa holder, Jan Hoffmann. With th inclusion of five gifted Nor Americans, three from the Unit States and two from Canada, an two colourful free skaters fro Japan, the men's event is agre ably fraught with uncertainty.

Scott Hamilton, the America champion, must be the favourit but people here seem a little to ready to count their chickens. Ha they had the opportunity to s the array of talent in Europe Innsbruck last month they mig be more inclined to heed the war ing of the Lake Placid Olympi a year ago when three probab gold medals dwindled to a silv and two bronzes.

By contrast the women's eve is pallid stuff, reduced virtual to a tussle between two outstan ing free skaters, Denise Biellman a brilliant but unreliable Swis and Elaine Zayak, a precocio 15-year-old American—unles that is, the new scoring syste confounds expectations. Bo Deborah Cottrill and Karer Wood, are capable of creating a impact

In the pairs Irina Vorobieva an Igor Lisovski, of the Soviet Unio ought to succeed to the title o the strength of their victory Europe, but for British cam followers, there is a speci interest in the 14-year-old Susa Garland and Robert Daw, thre years her senior.

Rugby League

Holders favoure for third time

By Keith Macklin

The Hull Kingston Rovers offi cial at the television studio Leeds hugged the Challenge Cu fondly to his bosom and said "That will do us" as Rover came out of the bag first for th third successive time. The dra for the third round of the Cup sponsored by Three Fives, gav Rovers a home game with Salfor and although the visitors hav shown considerable improvemen of late, a Craven Park game is just what the holders wanted. I they get to Wembley for the sec ond successive year they will d so without having to play on a opponent's ground.

THIRD ROUND: Featherstone v Widnes, Hull KR v Salford, Oldham v St Helens, Dewsbury or Warrington v Wakefield Trinity.

Ties to be played on March 14 or 15

Golf

String of disappointments for nearly all except Bean

From John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent
Orlando, Mar 2

No one would want to exaggerate the hardship of a week spent in Florida sunshine at this time of the year, but the call to professional duty in Orlando, so inviting in prospect, nevertheless carried a number of disappointments.

In the first place the entry for the Bay Hill golf tournament was less strong than it might have been, which amounted almost to a case of lese-majesty—considering that this is Arnold Palmer's tournament, Arnold Palmer's golf course and Arnold Palmer's command performance. However, Nicklaus, who lives down the road at Palm Beach, stayed at home; so did Miller, the most successful player this year; and so did, altogether, half the top 10 in the money list.

There was, however, a uniquely strong entry from the British Isles—and there lay the second disappointment, for only King survived the Friday night guillotine. We can forgive Faldo a victim of flu, but would Jacklin in his heyday have put his ball into the lake at the last when a par four would have kept him alive; might not James have shown greater resolution than to report sick after twice (not once, as previously recorded) striking out of bounds turning for home on the second day?

Brown and Smyth, too, failed to do themselves justice, but there is no cause to be censorious here. Better players than they miss the cut from time to time, and indeed did so at Orlando, so fierce is the competition. Oosterhuis, humbled again, remains optimistic but living now almost in a dream world

At least King kept the flag flying to the end, shrugging off incipient flu with a laudable second nine of 33, two under par. As for Faldo, he has done enough for glory and holds out the exciting prospect of becoming a great golfer rather than a good one after his experiences over here this winter.

The final disappointment was the collapse of Watson on the final day, which robbed the tournament of any competitive bite.

Bean, who finally won by seven strokes, was almost bred to golf, since his father was associated with a course at Jekyll Island. His golf opened the way to a degree at the University of Florida, though his huge frame, 6ft 4in and 15st, scarcely matches the "college clone" prototype. He was the fourth most successful player last year with $269,000, behind Watson, Trevino and Strange. With his awesome power, now deliberately held in check to secure greater accuracy, he had it in him to go even farther.

The winner: Sally Little, of South Africa, was declared winner of a women's professional tournament in City of Industry, California, yesterday, after rain forced the final two rounds to be abandoned.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.

FIRST DIVISION: Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough.

FOURTH DIVISION: Port Vale v Scunthorpe, Tranmere v Lincoln.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Albion Rovers v Stranraer.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Barnet v Stafford Rangers.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bridgend v Merthyr Tydfil; Stourbridge v Barry Town. Southern division: Ashford v Dartford, Bognor Regis v Crawley Town, [illegible] v Basingstoke, Hillingdon, Margate v Chelmsford (7.15).

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Second round replay: Epsom and Ewell v Walton and Hersham.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton Athletic v Hitchin Town; Walthamstow Avenue v Croydon. First division: Finchley v St Albans City, Hampton v Tilbury.

HITACHI CUP: Fourth round replay: Tooting and Mitcham v Bishop's Stortford.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Hertford United v Chertsey Town.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Cambridge University v TAVR (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Hull KR v Halifax.

RUGBY UNION: Bristol v The Army (7.0).

HOCKEY: Representative match: Army v Civil Service (at Aldershot, 2.30). Women's representative match: WEAF v Civil Service (at Vine Lane, Uxbridge, 2.30).

Basketball

Fiat to continue sponsorship of leading team

By Nicholas Harling

If the manufacturers of Fiat cars had needed any further persuasion before announcing their decision yesterday to continue their sponsorship of the new National League champions, it came in the most convincing fashion in the Birmingham club's last league game of the season on Saturday.

Before a crowd of 2,083 at the Aston Villa Sports Complex, Team Fiat beat Kelly Girl, Kingston, 126—99, 56 of their points coming from their player/coach Gregg White. Only two players have scored more points in a first division game. Ironically the record of 66 is held by Bobby Cooper, who moved from Kingston last year to MIM Edinburgh.

Yesterday's deal which gives Fiat a further year's sponsorship with an option to continue after that, represents further security for the club's general manager Bob Hope. It was after his appointment as coach to the Warwickshire county team 10 years ago that the club was formed. They outgrew first the University of Warwick and then the Coventry Sports Centre before moving to the complex near Aston Villa's football ground, at the start of the season. With a current average attendance of 1,900 they may soon need an even more spacious hall, which is why Hope has been casting envious eyes in the direction of Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre

While Birmingham were completing their season in style, Crystal Palace, the deposed champions were losing an appeal to have a one-match suspension of their centre Roma quashed. Palace's objection was that Harry Keats, the commissioner at the game in which Roma threw a chair on being expelled from the court, is also on the English Basketball Association's technical committee which imposed the ban. Since Keats was asked to report the incident he was in effect sending a letter to himself.

Boxing

Jones the Jab looks up into the singing mountain

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

A Welsh friend once told me that as a young lad in Swansea he never quite realized how green was the grass beyond the mountains north of the city. In the days of Richard (*How Green Was My Valley*) Llewellyn that was, when my friend lived in Swansea. People wore Brylcreem and policemen pushed bikes. These days young men know better. Colin Jones, the British welterweight champion from Gorseinon, not far from Swansea, knows there is a fortune in champions' mountains and beyond is "a long valley floored with green pastures", as John Steinbeck put it in those war days.

Jones tries for the vacant Commonwealth title tonight. Mark Harris, of Guyana, has the same idea. The two meet at the Wembley Conference Centre. Jones needs the title to convince the European Boxing Union that he can look after himself against Jorgen Hansen, of Denmark, the European champion, and Harris needs it as a lever for the Latin-American title. Jones has a former British champion, Eddie Thomas, in his corner, and Harris has a former Commonwealth champion, Lennox Beckles, in his.

Boxing News have given the bout a B grading, meaning that Jones is the favourite. But after watching Harris going through his moves in the gym it would not surprise me if it turned out to be an A. Guyana is known for its fighters. Harris, who did not go to the Montreal Olympics because of the African boycott, has a good amateur career, reaching the New York Golden Gloves final. He boxed as a professional in America and, while he did not fare too well, he learnt a thing or two, and under the management of Cleveland Wason and Mr Beckles, who became his trainer after receiving a pasting in the ring from him, he has run into form.

He arrived in Britain on Thursday and has done no sparring but has taken the air at Hyde Park in five-mile runs and gone through his numbers, from one to 12. All the moves necessary to beat the Welshman are there in these numbers. The shorthand used by many trainers has been perfected by Mr Beckles, Mr Wason said. Harris also looked good on a speedball, devized by Mr Wason, that is no bigger than a tomato and suspended from top and bottom by a rubber band, giving the impression when it is hit of 50 tomatoes. Harris seldom failed to tell the real one from the stroboscopic illusion.

The Guyanese has a good left hook and can double up punches which carry the power of his shoulders with them; which points to an aggressive man who could find himself counting to 10 as he looks up from the floor at the Welshman. For Jones likes his opponents to come to him when he can use his left jab to greatest effect.

Mr Thomas says his left jab is even better than those of the other two world champions he managed, Ken Buchanan and Howard Winstone. Jones's jabs really hurt, and he can hit as hard at the end of a bout as at the start of it. Pound for pound he is the hardest hitter in Britain. There is some doubt about his right hand which was operated on last August. He will need both hands to cut off the Guyanese if Harris decides to box him from a distance and stay out of range of Jones's vicious hooks.

New date for title bout

The British light-middleweight title contest between Pat Thomas, of Cardiff, the holder, and Herol Graham, of Retford, will take place at Sheffield City Hall on March 24 instead of this Thursday.

Boxer still in coma

Atlantic City, March 2.—Fred Bowman, aged 24, an American lightweight, was still in a coma here after Gino Perez knocked him out in the sixth-round on Saturday.

Angling

One lone salmon makes one small leap for mankind

By Conrad Voss Bark

Trumpets are being blown from New River Head. The long and laborious efforts by Thames Water Authority to entice salmon back into the river—200 years ago it was one of the best salmon rivers in Europe—has resulted in one lone adventurous fish questing its way 76 miles up from the estuary, only to die, presumably from exhaustion, between Chertsey Bridge and Chertsey Weir.

That is, the TWA say, waving their flags, the farthest upstream recording of a salmon in the Thames since 1833. The fish was a mature female, 30in long, weighing 8.8lb, and was discovered dead in the shallows by someone walking along the bank.

It is good news. The Thames was poisoned by industrial effluent and the installation of domestic water closets in the early parts of last century. The stink of untreated sewage was said to be so bad at one time that the House of Commons had to suspend their sitting. The Thames was an open sewer and so, for that matter, were the Tyne and the Rhine and many another river.

But before we cheer too loudly and reach for our rods we must remember that one salmon does not make a run. It is a sign, a symbol, encouraging, but nothing more. There is much work to be done on the weirs and the creation of fish passes before the fish can have an easy run to the spawning grounds.

Even though in 20 years or so crowds may line the banks at Teddington to see the salmon leap again it is doubtful whether they could be fished for. It is easy to destroy a salmon stock. It takes a long time to build it up again—and possibly it may never be built up again if we are foolish enough to allow French, German, Dutch and Belgian trawlers to start netting up to our beaches.

The signs, at least for the moment, give hope that spawning is ultimately possible.

For the record

World Student Games

JACA: Men's giant slalom: 1, B. Zeman (Czechoslovakia), 2min 34.43secs; 2, T. Cerkovnik (Yugoslavia), 2:35.10; 3, P. Popangelov (Bulgaria), 2:35.48. GB: 20, F. Burton, 2:45.27; 27, R. Langmuir, 2:49.83; 32, B. Simpson, 2:55.59; 37, R. Simpson, 3:12.98. Alpine skiing combined: 1, P. Blanc (France), 49.78 pts; 2, Zeman, 57.50; 3, M. Provera (Italy) 78.32. GB: 12, Langmuir, 227.08; 14, B. Simpson, 261.61; 15, R. Simpson, 403.57. Men's 30-kilometre cross country: 1, I. Lebanov (Bulgaria), 1:19.18; 2, A. Kozel (USSR), 1:19.59; 3, A. Kutukin (USSR), 1:20.34. Women's 10-kilometre cross country: 1, K. Jeriova (Czechoslovakia), 28:02.13; 2, B. Paulo (Czechoslovakia), 28:22.25; 3, L. Satolotskai (USSR), 29:05.25.

Tennis

MEXICO CITY: Men's singles final: J. Fillol (Chile) beat D. Carter (Australia), 6—2, 6—3.

HONGKONG: Exhibition match: V. Gerulaitis (US) beat B. Borg (Sweden), 6—4, 3—6, 6—4, 7—5. Borg won series, 2—1.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Winnipeg Jets 3, Detroit Red Wings 3; St Louis Blues 4, Chicago Black Hawks 4, Boston Bruins 6, Buffalo Sabres 4; Montreal Canadiens 4, New York Rangers 3; Vancouver Canucks 3, Hartford Whalers 0.

Snooker

DERBY: Yamaha Organs Trophy tournament, Group one: D. Mountjoy beat R. Reardon, 3—0; David Taylor beat Mountjoy, 3—0; Taylor beat G. Miles 2—1.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Crans Montana	70	135	Good	Fair	Good	Snow	4
New snow on hard base							
Flaine	150	510	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	1
Good skiing everywhere							
Klosters	110	210	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-4
New snow on good base							
Les Arcs	90	200	Fair	Varied	Fair	Snow	1
Worn patches on lower slopes							
Sauze d'Oulx	20	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Cloud	0
Three recent snowfalls							
Wildschönau	80	210	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5
New snow on hard base							

In the above reports supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

AUSTRIA	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
Alpbach	60	200	—	—	-4
Axamer-Lizum	—	145	—	—	-6
Badgastein	75	160	—	—	-3
Berwang	175	195	—	—	-5
Brand	90	220	—	—	-1
Gargellen	100	280	—	—	-2
Hochsölden	40	80	—	—	-3
Igls	20	90	—	—	-1
Ischgl	100	210	—	—	-2
Kaprun	—	300	—	—	-10
Lech	180	220	—	—	0
Lermoos	90	200	—	—	-3
Lienz	20	25	—	—	-4
Mayrhofen	55	150	—	—	-7
Mitterndorf	60	325	—	—	-7
Obergurgl	150	280	—	—	-5
Obertauern	260	290	—	—	-3
Schruns	60	180	—	—	-3
Serfaus	70	220	—	—	-1
Söll	110	200	—	—	-1
Wildschönau	—	210	—	—	-2
Zürs	205	340	—	—	-4

FRANCE	L	U			
Chamonix	95	700	—	—	—
La Clusaz	110	290	—	—	—
Le Corbier	120	210	—	—	—
L Deux Alpes	120	260	—	—	—
Les Gets	110	220	—	—	—
Les Menuires	100	260	—	—	—
Megève	70	190	—	—	—
Méribel	110	300	—	—	—
Pra-Loup	15	40	—	—	—
St Gervais	40	215	—	—	—
Superdevoluy	110	15	—	—	—
Val d'Isère	130	200	—	—	—

ITALY	L	U			
Abetone	50	60	—	—	—
Bardonecchia	20	50	—	—	—
Bormio	30	80	—	—	—
Canazei	20	60	—	—	—
Cervinia	30	100	—	—	—
Claviere	80	70	—	—	—
Cortina	0	40	—	—	—
Courmayeur	20	220	—	—	—
Livigno	45	50	—	—	—
Macugnaga	5	70	—	—	—
Madesimo	5	60	—	—	—
Madonna di C	10	60	—	—	—
Ortisei	15	75	—	—	—
San Martino	0	40	—	—	—
Selva	25	75	—	—	—
Sestriere	50	60	—	—	—
Vipiteno	10	50	—	—	—

SWITZERLAND	L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	60	150	Pwdr	—	-1
Arosa	120	190	Hard	—	-5
Braunwald	180	220	Pwdr	—	-1
Champery	20	150	Pwdr	—	-2
Chateau d'Oex	60	160	Wet	—	2
Davos	90	210	Pwdr	—	-5
Disentis	80	200	Pwdr	—	-1
Engelberg	100	250	Hard	—	0
Gstaad	90	200	Wet	—	0
Kandersteg	80	220	Pwdr	—	1
Laax-Flims	80	240	Pwdr	—	0
Lenk	80	170	Wet	—	-2
Lenzerheide	80	150	Hard	—	-4
Les Diablerets	70	150	Pwdr	—	2
Leysin	80	100	Wet	—	1
Pontresina	25	70	Pdwr	—	-10
Saas-Fee	75	50	Pwdr	—	-5
St Cergue	120	160	Wet	—	1
St Moritz	20	60	Hard	—	-11
Savognin	30	100	Pwdr	—	-1
Unterwasser	90	130	Wet	—	-3
Zermatt	60	120	Pwdr	—	-5

Cricket

Compromise may be the favoured course

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, Mar 2

West Indians everywhere, particularly in Antigua, Jamaica and here in Barbados, are waiting with bated breath for the decision, to be made by the politicians of these three countries and of Montserrat, whether or not they are in favour of the England cricketers continuing their tour. The remaining Test matches are due to be played at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, at St John's, Antigua, and at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica. Also on the itinerary is Montserrat, with a four-day match against Leeward Islands.

Since England landed in Barbados last Friday evening the feeling has been strengthening that Antigua and Barbados will favour a compromise, thinking that it would be seriously inhospitable not to, with the England team already in the Caribbean, and that to take the Guyanese line could have a devastating effect on the future of West Indian cricket. Clive Lloyd and his team, besides being the pride and joy of the Caribbean, are one of the region's most valuable pieces of merchandise.

Attending today's meeting are Mr Henry Forde, the Barbados Foreign Minister, Mr Hugh Shearer, his Jamaican counterpart, Mr John Osbourne, the Chief Minister of Montserrat, Mr Lester Bird, the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Antigua, and Mr Reuben Harris, the Antiguan Minister of Education.

Members of the West Indian Cricket Board are as much in suspense as the England team, and as embarrassed by the whole affair. In the England party there are those who have had enough already of being used as political pawns. "Let's go now and play South Africa", which is just what the West Indian board is afraid might happen if England were no longer to be made welcome in the Caribbean. Even as it is, the chances of another English visit to Guyana, at least while Mr Forbes Burnham is in power, can be ruled out.

Mr Hugh Shearer: Foreign Minister of Jamaica.

The Gleneagles Commonwealth statement on apartheid in sport, signed in 1977, accepted it as the urgent duty of each Commonwealth government to combat vigorously the evil of apartheid by withholding any form of support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage, contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa. At the same time it was "fully acknowledged that it was for each government to determine in accordance with its laws, the methods by which it might best discharge these commitments".

There are many precedents in the West Indies for compromise in these matters—both before and after Gleneagles. In 1976, for example, while many Caribbean countries were boycotting the Montreal Olympics, Jamaica found a way of sending Don Quarrie, their great sprinter, in search of gold medals. Much more recently Guyana, usually the most uncompromising of all the Caribbean countries, raised no objections to David Bairstow playing there, although, since Gleneagles, he has captained Griqualand West through a Currie Cup season. It was only when, with a flourish, a Jamaican columnist threw Robin Jackman's background at them that Guyana felt obliged to act.

For the second day running the England team have had practised on the Test ground, on two poorish net pitches. Dilley was missing, though he is expected to bowl again tomorrow, should the tour continue. Dilley was hit on the big toe of his right foot in the one-day international in Barbice, which, although played as recently as last Thursday, seems to have been an age ago. Old is nursing the shoulder injury without which no England tour would be complete. The weather is warm, the sea blue and the mood one of growing impatience.

PRETORIA: Currie Cup. Western Province 277 and 119; Northern Transvaal 171 and 120. Western Province won by 45 runs.

Rowing

Cambridge remain an unknown quantity

By Jim Railton

James Palmer, the Cambridge University Boat Club President, announced his crew yesterday to meet Oxford in the Boat Race on April 4. Palmer was in a curiously optimistic mood and one can only wonder what is up his sleeve. He described the Cambridge eight as: "The fastest crew I have ever rowed with. And these past weeks, while our rivals seem to have been posing, we have been getting in some effective work."

I can only recall Palmer rowing in two consecutive losing Cambridge crews (although I concede they were unlucky to lose stroke John Woodhouse on the morning of the race in 1979). The question to be posed is: when are we likely to see Cambridge rowing against some tough opposition on the tideway?

Oxford have certainly been in demand by the media, if only because they are coxed by Susan Brown, who on April 4 will crash this particular male bastion. But while Oxford have posed, they have also raced and conquered Leander, London University and, last weekend, the British lightweight eight.

They race in the Reading Head this Saturday and then challenge the British heavyweight eight before deciding whether or not to enter the Tideway race on March 28 and take on the nation. Cambridge, so far, have met a Tideway Scullers eight with veterans on board, some weeks back at Ely.

So it is hard to see, at the moment, just what Cambridge are up to. Palmer's crew this year consists of six losing Blues, including the coxswain Wigglesworth (who is likely to be 20lb heavier than Susan Brown) against Oxford's six winning Blues of last year.

Ladbrokes, the sponsors, do not share Palmer's confidence either. They readjusted their odds yesterday to 7 to 2 on Oxford; 9 to 4 against Cambridge. Evens are offered on a win by Oxford up to six lengths, and for six lengths and over. Surprisingly, Oxford's greatest winning margin in a Boat Race this century is only seven lengths, as recently as 1977.

Cambridge cannot be assessed until the adrenalin flows and they race some big guns. They may (or may not) meet the British lightweight eight this weekend, whom Oxford have beaten. The lightweights contain four of the world gold medal-winning eight, but are far from racing form and for the taking.

If Cambridge take on the lightweights, it will be a challenge they cannot in the psychological sense, afford to lose. Oxford, despite occasional lapses of concentration, were able to take at will between two and two and a half lengths in three minute rows and as much as five or six lengths over seven minutes off the lightweights. If anything, at this stage, Oxford may be seen to be racing too much, particularly if they attempt to race in the Tideway Head a week before the Boat Race. Cambridge must be cautiously eyed as simply an unknown quantity.

Whatever the outcome, Oxford and Cambridge will be airlifted at Easter to compete in Japan. It will be the first visit by an Oxbridge crew in over 20 years. They will race other Japanese universities on the 1964 Olympic Toda Course and in a river boat race in Tokyo.

CAMBRIDGE: M. P. Cowie (Cheltenham & Fitzwilliam), bow; *M. F. Panter (Kingston CS & LMBC); R. J. Stephens (King's College School, Wimbledon, and Emmanuel); *C. Phillips (City of London School & Jesus); *J. S. Palmer (Eton & Pembroke); M. Clark (Shrewsbury & Downing); *L. Baart (Shrewsbury & Caius); *A. Dalrymple (Eton & Downing) stroke; *C. Wigglesworth (Bryanston & Jesus), cox.

OXFORD: *P. J. Head (Hampton & Oriel), bow; *N. A. Conington (Hampton & Oriel); R. P. Younge (King's School, Canterbury & New College); R. Emerton (Abingdon & Christ Church); *N. B. Ranlov (Corpus Christi & St Hugh's); *C. J. Mahoney (Hampton & Oriel); *M. D. Andrews (Abingdon & Magdalen); *J. L. Bland (King Edward VI School, Stafford & Merton), stroke; S. Brown (Taunton & Wadham), cox.

*A blue.

Racing

Coughing may disturb Easterbys' season

By Michael Seely

Peter Easterby saddled his 60th winner of the season yesterday when Solar Emperor ran clean away with the Barnby Dun amateur riders' hurdle. This victory gave Easterby's son Tim his 17th success of the current campaign and young Easterby has now an odds on chance to lift the amateur riders' title. Obviously the champion trainer is still firing on all four cylinders, but he uttered a note of warning about an outbreak of coughing in his yard.

"Sea Pigeon, Night Nurse, and Little Owl are all right at present, but both Prominent King and Home Ground ran well below par when disappointing at Newcastle last weekend. Reit-Na-Nona is still suffering from the epidemic and will have to miss the Philip Cornes saddle of gold final at Newbury on Saturday. Gowan Loch might be my representative in that race", said Easterby.

However, he then added that it was a dry cough and not too serious. "It is disturbing rather than worrying", he explained with his passion for exactitude. But all the same, with the National Hunt Festival only a fortnight away it is not exactly a happy situation.

Both Alan Jarvis and David Nicholson are also enjoying good seasons. Jarvis had his 23rd win of the campaign when Tommy Carmody rode Prince Bai to a clever one length victory over Celtic Tara in the first division of the Askern Main novices hurdle. Despite looking a shade backward in the paddock Prince Bai quickened in fine style and obviously had further improvement in him.

Prince Bai's main objective is the Sun Alliance hurdle at Cheltenham and Danhagen, who won his sixth race of the season at Stratford on Saturday, will now be aimed at the Waterford Crystal Supreme novices hurdle at the Festival. Jarvis struck a good bargain when he bought Prince Bai, Danhagen and Eabal from the French trainer Aage Paus in September.

David Nicholson equalled his best ever total of 33 winners when Peter Scudamore rode Highway Patt to a six-length victory over Megan's Boy in the High Melton handicap steeplechase. Megan's Boy was already struggling when a mistake at the second last fence put paid to whatever chance the favourite may have had. Nicholson confirmed that Broadsword was in fine trim for his attack on the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle and said that Highway Patt is now only just starting to become acclimatized.

"I only bought the horse in running from Mick O'Toole after he had been narrowly beaten by Diamond Edge at Cheltenham in December. The press had been calling my horse all the names under the sun and overlooked his period of acclimatization."

But there was no denying the air of authority with which Highway Patt ran his heart out yesterday. A tilt at the national hunt handicap or the Kim Muir challenge cup will be Highway Patt's objective at Cheltenham.

Nicholson's jockey, Peter Scudamore, continued in invincible form following his success on Highway Patt. Scudamore rode his 70th winner of the season when driving home China Cottage five lengths clear of Grey Mountain in the day's big race, the Princess Royal Handicap Hurdle. Scudamore is now only eight winners behind John Francome.

Little Bay, wearing blinkers for the first time, made his opponents look distinctly ordinary in the Feversham Novices Chase for Gordon Richards. "Blinkers have made all the difference to the six-year-old", said the Greystoke trainer, "he has been inclined to look around him and not concentrate on the job in hand. I don't think we'll go to Cheltenham as there are some other decent novice races still to be run."

Jenny Pitman also continued her remarkable run of success when Bryan Smart rode Bossall to a comfortable victory in the second division of the novices' hurdle. "Bossall has earned the reputation of not being genuine. But all he needed was soft going and a distance of ground", said Mrs Pitman. And there was no denying the ease with which Bossall disposed of his rivals yesterday.

STATE OF GOING (official): Plumpton: Heavy (inspection 7.30 am). Kelso: Heavy (inspection 7.30 am). Tomorrow: Wetherby: Heavy (inspection 2.30 pm today). Worcester: Heavy (inspection 4.00 pm today).

The bowler-crested hunter chase mudlark

By John Karter

Honest-to-goodness sporting endeavour is not dead. It is alive and kicking and coursing through the hearts of the hunter chase brigade. Never was this better illustrated than in the tweedy, gumboot atmosphere of Leicester's hunter chase meeting yesterday, when beaming faces greeted mud-spattered also-rans as affectionately as if they had won Grand Nationals.

Not so honest-to-goodness is the muscling in on the action of those nasty, cynical professionals. Pitting their professionally trained stars against the point-to-pointers has provided easy pickings. No one can blame them, of course, but recently the amateur squealsof protest have reached a crescendo.

The original idea of hunter chases was for point-to-pointers to progress into races under rules, but now that the Fred Winters of this world are buying young horses and training them specifically for these events, that idea is often lost sight of. There are many who would like to see things made a lote harder for the professionally trained animals.

The news is not all black. A ruddy faced St George in the shape of Frank Gilman, a farmer from nearby Uppingham, came to slay the Winter dragon yesterday and the cheers and back-slapping almost raised the grandstand roof. It happend in the main race of the day, the Sturgess Hunters' Steeplechase (a qualifier for the Land-Rover Champion Hunter Steeplechase at Cheltenham on May 6), when Gilman's eight-year-old Grittar ran away from the odds-on Winter favourite, Shannon Bridge.

In going that was on the runny side of treacle-puddings, Shannon Bridge, undefeated in all five of his previous hunter chases, came to the last fence with the prize apparently all wrapped up and ready to take home. On the run-in, however, Grittar, ridden by a former leading amateur, Dick Saunders, came sluicing by to leave him just a miry second best.

Connexions of Shannon Bridge were disappointed but not dismayed. The horse did not like the conditions and he will probably take on the winner again in the Foxhunters' at the Cheltenham Festival meeting later this month and yet again in the Land-Rover final.

Earlier, in the first division of the Garthorpe Maiden Hunters' Steeplechase, Brian Hind, a businessman from London, had epitomized the devil-may-care amateur approach when he swopped pinstripes and bowler for muddy breeches and goggles to win on French Peacock. Mr Hind hunts French Peacock with the nearby Oakley and after the rigours of London business life during the week he finds it the greatest therapy in the world to risk his neck over the hazards of the hunting field.

Those muddied goggles were nearly the downfall of the gallant Mr Hind, however. Having gone clear of his nearest rival on the run-in, he found that the toast was literally "Here's mud in your eye". Never mind what the professionals would have done, 50 yards from the post Mr Hind decided that those goggles had to come off. His horse thought the race was over, almost stopped dead and triumph so nearly turned into disaster.

Jockey retires: John ("Kipper") Lynch, one of the best lightweight jockeys of the last two decades, has lost his nine-month battle to ride again. Lynch, aged 41, has been told to retire by doctors because of the severe injuries he received in a car crash last June, Press Association reports.

He was returning to Newmarket after the wedding in London of Elly Lemos, daughter of Captain Marcos Lemos, the main patron of the Clive Brittain stable for whom he rode. His car was in a crash 13 miles from Newmarket and it took firemen 40 minutes to free him from the wreckage.

He was in intensive care with head and leg injuries. But, after attending Headley Court hospital at Epsom, he made steady progress and four months later said that he would be well enough to ride at the start of the new flat racing season.

However, three weeks from the start of the flat, he accepted his fate: "Although I made a superb recovery, you have to be 100 per cent fit to think of race riding. As I have lost some field of vision, I will never attain physical fitness to that standard", he said.

A fine drizzle of wickets

Dunedin, March 2.—Ravi Shastri claimed five wickets for 22 runs as the Indian cricketers demolished Otago by an innings and 14 runs today. Rain more than once threatened to rob the Indians of victory, and a drizzle was falling when Shastri wrapped up the match by breaking a stubborn last-wicket stand.

He trapped Bracewell leg-before after he had scored 21 in a final partnership with Boock (18 not out) which contributed 29 to the total of 117. It was the Indians's first win of their New Zealand tour and it boosted their morale after their 62-run defeat in the first Test match last week.

Otago lost six wickets for 60 runs yesterday, but dismal weather threatened to foil the Indians today. The start was delayed and play continued through drizzling rain at times.

During Otago's stubborn last-wicket stand Boock twice lost his footing on the slippery pitch and twice appealed to the umpires to halt play. His requests were refused and Otago's innings ended shortly after lunch. The only batsman besides the tail-end pair to reach double figures was Blakely, who made the top score of 33 in 160 minutes.

INDIANS: First Innings 318 (Y. Sharma 89, C. P. S. Chauhan 85; J. Bracewell 7 for 155).

OTAGO: First Innings 187 (B. Blair 65; K. Azad 6 for 50).

Second Innings

I. Rutherford, l-b-w, b Singh	5
G. Blakely, b Shastri	33
R. Hoskin, c Vengsarkar, b Shastri	5
W. Blair, c Binny, b Shastri	6
G. Dawson, c Viswanath, b Shastri	2
B. Blair, c Binny, b Shastri	8
W. Lees, c and b Chauhan	0
B. McKechnie, b Kapil Dev	0
D. Walker, b Kapil Dev	2
J. Bracewell, l-b-w, b Shastri	21
S. Boock, not out	18
Extras	8
Total	117

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—16, 2—25, 3—33, 4—41, 5—57, 6—58, 7—64, 8—86, 9—88, 10—117.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev, 17—3—21—2; Singh, 5—1—16—1; Binny, 2—0—3—0; Shastri, 22—13—22—5; Azad, 19—6—30—1; Chauhan, 3—0—8—1.—Reuter.

Two matches to decide title

Perth, March 2.—Western Australia took the lead in the Sheffield Shield competition when they beat New South Wales by 115 runs today. Western Australia, who won with over an hour to spare, now lead the Shield table with 114 points from Queensland, with 113, and New South Wales, 105.

The competition will be decided by the outcome of next weekend's games between Western Australia and Queensland in Perth and New South Wales and Tasmania in Sydney.

The leading New South Wales batsmen failed dismally on a perfect pitch and they lost their first six wickets for only 80 runs.

Their opener, John Dyson, was then joined by Steve Rixon in a seventh wicket stand which put on 159 in only 128 minutes. Dyson scored 134 not out and Rixon 66.

SCORES: Western Australia 328 for 6 dec and 319 for 7 dec (R. Marsh 75 not out, K. Hughes 73, G. Shipperd 65); New South Wales 262 for 8 dec and 270 (J. Dyson 134 not out, S. Rixon 66; T. Alderman 5 for 50).—Reuter.

Tennis

Gene Mayer achieves indoor double

Memphis, Tennessee, March 2.—Gene Mayer completed his stroll through the United States indoor tennis championships by defeating Roscoe Tanner 6—2, 6—4 in 70 minutes in the final yesterday. Mayer, seeded second, won the tournament without losing a set.

Holding a miniature cotton bale, a silver bowl and a cheque for $36,000, Mayer said afterwards: "This is almost like coming home—the Independent Presbyterian Church has been cheering for me all week, but they got a little drowned out today with all these Tennessee fans".

Mayer also won the doubles title with his brother, Sandy, beating Mike Cahill and Tom Gullikson, 7—6, 6—7, 7—6.—AP.

Miss Hanika wins a final at second attempt

Seattle, Mar 2.—Sylvia Hanika, a 21-year-old West German left-hander, won the Avon singles title here yesterday. Her 6—2, 6—4 victory over Barbara Potter, another lefthander, earned her $24,000.

It was Miss Hanika's first success in her second Avon final this year, having been beaten by Martina Navratilova in Cincinnati in January. But the tournament was without big names such as Chris Evert, Tracy Austin and Miss Navratilova.

In the final, Miss Potter won only three points in the first three games and Miss Hanika took a 4—0 lead. In the second set, Miss Hanika broke service in the seventh game. In a play-off match, Bettina Bunge defeated Kathy Jordan, 7—6.

Squash rackets

Jahangir keeps up pressure to defeat Hunt

Munich, March 2.—Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, beat the world champion, Geoff Hunt, in their first ever encounter, in the final of a squash tournament here yesterday. Jahangir won 9—0, 8—10, 9—4, 9—6, setting the stage for the British Open a month from now.

Jahangir did not give Hunt a chance in the first game, but in the second, Hunt tried a different tactic, changing the pace constantly and gradually got on top. But it was the Australian's only bright moment.

Jahangir showed the same determination and high quality in the third that had won him the first. He kept up the pressure to win the title.—AP.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Atlanta Hawks 108, Seattle Supersonics 102; Milwaukee Bucks 137, Washington Bullets 107; Boston Celtics 114, Philadelphia 76ers 107; Dallas Mavericks 90, San Diego Clippers 91; Portland Trail Blazers 108, Utah Jazz 97; San Antonio Spurs 103, Houston Rockets 86; Phoenix Suns 101, Los Angeles Lakers 96; Denver Nuggets 137, Cleveland Cavaliers 127; Detroit Pistons 117, New Jersey Nets 104.

Badminton

All eyes will be on young South Korean newcomer

By Richard Streeton

A first round meeting between Rudi Hartono (Indonesia) and Flemming Delfs (Denmark), the present and immediate past world champions, was the highlight when the draw for the All-England badminton championships was made in London yesterday. Hartono, who has won the title a record eight times, makes his first appearance in the event since 1978. He came out of retirement last year to win the world title in his own country. Hartono is seeded to meet his compatriot, Liem Swie King, in the final; Delfs, the 1977 All-England champion, and a shadow of the player he was, has not been seeded.

All the world's leading players apart from the Chinese will be at the championships at Wembley from March 25 to 29, sponsored by John Player. China, who make a six-match tour of England and Wales in May, still belong to the breakaway World Badminton Federation, although meetings with the International Badminton Federation later this month are expected to bring a merger of the two bodies. A record 23 countries will be taking part at Wembley, including South Korea for the first time.

South Korea provide the championships' most exciting newcomer in Sun Ei Hwang, who is 19 and virtually unknown. On her first visit to Europe she has been seeded second behind the holder, Lene Köppen, of Denmark, in the women's singles. In her first international events, Miss Hwang won both the Taiwan invitation tournament and the Japanese Open in January. All the world's leading players except for Miss Köppen and Lie Ivana, of Indonesia, were competing.

Miss Hwang's background is slightly mysterious. She is reputed to have been trained under the strictest discipline in a Seoul convent for the past four years in readiness to be launched on the badminton world. She is tall, moves rapidly about the court and makes her strokes with immense power. Due to her lack of experience she is a nervous starter.

Face of the future: Sun-Ei Hwang, seeded second in her first appearance in the All-England championship.

At Wembley she meets Paula Kilvington, ranked equal fifth in England, in her opening match. Miss Kilvington has had remarkable success this year with Gillian Gilks in doubles since joining Michael Goodwin's coaching stable. Miss Kilvington's own hard hitting, though, have brought their share of upsets in the past and it will not be an easy start for the South Korean.

The draw was generally kind to the English representatives. Ray Stevens, the national champion, who is seeded seven, plays Stefan Karlsson, of Sweden, in the first round, and then has to get past Dhany Sartica (Indonesia) to fulfil his scheduled quarter-final match with Hartono.

Stevens is confident his long-standing heel injury is on the mend and leaves this week for extra training with the leading Danish players before the Danish open next week. Kevin Jolly, the other England international seeded, has never lost to his opening opponent, Steen Fladberg (Denmark). Jolly, who is seeded eight, will play Liem Swie King in the last eight if the programme runs to form.

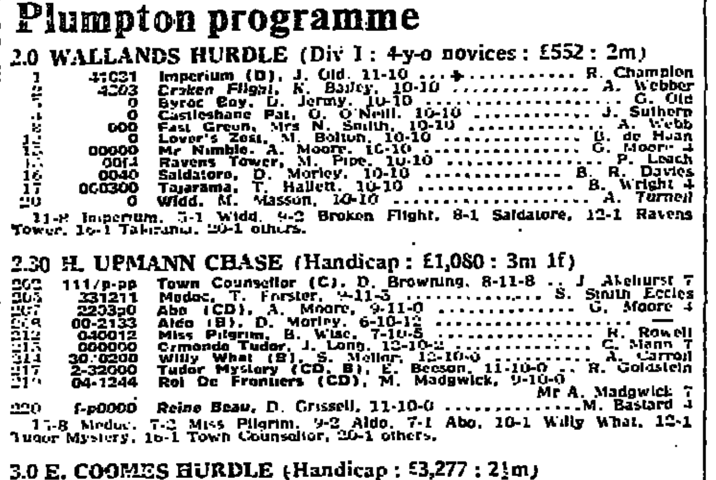
Miss Köppen, a great favourite at Wembley, comes up against Saori Kondo, of Japan, whom she beat in the 1979 final, in her first match. Jane Webster, the only English girl seeded—at No 7—plays another Japanese, Hiroe Yuki, who beat her in the third round last year. Karen Bridge, England's No 2, has been paired with Wendy Carter, of Canada, the eighth seed.

MEN'S SINGLES: First round: LIEM SWIE KING (Indo) v Saw Swie Leong (M); G. Higgins (US) v A. B. Goode (E); M. Kleidsen (D) v A. Srirolanakul (Th); S. Modi (I) v S. Johnsson (S); K. R. JOLLY (E) v S. Fladberg (D); R. Ridder (N) v Qualifier; Tjiokrokusumo (Indo) v Qualifier; K. Zeniya (J) v Qualifier; M. FROST HANSEN (D) v R. Arbi (Indo); M. Svarrer (D) v R. D. Gonzalez (Mex); G. J. Scott (E) v Qualifier; Y. Ino (J) v Hon-Cha Liu (T); HADYANTO (Indo) v A. Skripko (SU); J. Czech (C) v J. Solvara (M); C. Lundborn (Swe) v G. Helsholt (D); P. Sutton (W) v S. J. Baddeley (E); H. Hasegawa (J) v B. A. Wallwork (E); Isuniarto (Indo) v M. Fogarty (US); U. Johansson (Swe) v C. B. Andersen (D); P. B. Petersen (D) v PRAKASH PADUKONE (I); T. Pettersson (Swe) v S. Pri (G); U. Luengpetchurporn (Th) v R. MacDougall (C); Chien-Tung Huang (T) v N. Yates (E); Heryanto (Indo) v L. PONGOH (Indo); M. Schnaase (WG) v D. Travers (Sc); P. Tryon (C) v K. Larsen (D); D. Sartica (Indo) v Qualifier; S. Karlsson (Swe) v R. P. STEVENS (E); G. J. Rolson (NZ) v M. Tsuchida (J); M. Sidek (M) v P. Ganguli (I); C. S. Asnuth (E) v Qualifier; F. Delfs (D) v R. HARTONO (Indo).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: First round: Byes: MISS L. KOPPEN (D), Miss S. Kondo (J), Miss Sumirah (Indo), Miss M. Leeves (E), MRS W. CARTER (C), Miss K. S. Bridge, Miss K. Jinnai (J), Miss Tohsoo Gwon (Indo), MISS A. TOKUDA (J) v Miss P. Hamilton (Sc); Miss Yunia Kim (SK) v Miss G. M. Clark (E); Miss L. Elumer (Swi) v Miss Sherry Liu (T); Miss P. Nielsen (D) v Qualifier; MISS V. VERAWATY (Indo) v Miss L. Asrlsson (Swe); Miss F. Tohkairin (J) v Miss J. van Beusekom (N); Miss K. Schneider (WG) v Miss S. J. Leadbeater (E); Miss E. Thoresen (NW) v Miss N. Nielsen (D); Qualifier v Miss J. Younghberg (C); Miss H. Troke (E) v Miss K. Teh (M); Miss S. Daly (A) v Miss D. Kjaer (D); Qualifier v MISS Y. YONEKURA (J) v Miss D. Simpson (E) v Miss K. Larsen (D); Miss A. Ghia (I) v Qualifier; Miss D. P. Underwood (Ire) v Miss Hsin-Chi Hwang (T); Miss A. Borjesson (Swe) v MISS I. IVANA (Indo); Byes: Miss R. Sorensen (D), Miss S. Bellarova (SU), Miss H. Yuki (J), MISS J. A. WEBSTER (E), Miss S. Kirada (J), Miss Novianti (Indo), Miss P. M. Kilvington, MISS SUN-EI HWANG (SK).

KEY: (A) Australia, (C) Canada, (D) Denmark, (E) England, (WG) West Germany, (I) India, (Indo) Indonesia, (Ire) Ireland, (J) Japan, (SK) South Korea, (M) Malaysia, (Mex) Mexico, (N) Netherlands, (NZ) New Zealand, (NW) Norway, (Sc) Scotland, (SU) Soviet Union, (Swe) Sweden, (Swi) Switzerland, (T) Taiwan, (Th) Thailand, (US) United States, (W) Wales.

* Seeded players in capital letters.



Plumpton programme

2.0 WALLANDS HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £552: 2m)

1 41031 Imperium (D), J. Old, 11-10 ..... R. Champion
2 4203 Craken Flight, K. Bailey, 10-10 ..... A. Webber
3 0 Byroc Boy, D. Jermy, 10-10 ..... G. Old
4 0 Castleshane Pat, O. O'Neill, 10-10 ..... J. Suthern
8 000 Fast Green, Mrs N. Smith, 10-10 ..... A. Webb
12 0 Lover's Zest, M. Bolton, 10-10 ..... B. de Haan
13 00000 Mr Nimble, A. Moore, 10-10 ..... G. Moore 4
15 0014 Ravens Tower, M. Pipe, 10-10 ..... P. Leach
16 0040 Saldatore, D. Morley, 10-10 ..... B. R. Davies
17 000300 Tajarama, T. Hallett, 10-10 ..... B. Wright 4
20 0 Widd, M. Masson, 10-10 ..... A. Turnell

11-8 Imperium, 5-1 Widd, 9-2 Broken Flight, 8-1 Saldatore, 12-1 Ravens Tower, 16-1 Tajarama, 20-1 others.

2.30 H. UPMANN CHASE (Handicap: £1,080: 3m 1f)

202 111/p-pp Town Counsellor (C), D. Browning, 8-11-8 ..... J. Akehurst 7
205 331211 Medoc, T. Forster, 9-11-5 ..... S. Smith Eccles
207 223330 Abo (CD), A. Moore, 9-11-0 ..... G. Moore 4
208 00-2133 Aldo (B), D. Morley, 6-10-12 ..... —
212 040012 Miss Pilgrim, B. Wise, 7-10-5 ..... R. Rowell
213 000000 Ormonde Tudor, J. Long, 13-10-2 ..... C. Mann 7
214 30/0200 Willy What (B), S. Mellor, 12-10-0 ..... A. Carroll
217 2-32000 Tudor Mystery (CD, B), E. Beeson, 11-10-0 ..... R. Goldstein
219 04-1244 Roi De Frontiers (CD), M. Madgwick, 9-10-0 ..... Mr A. Madgwick 7
220 f-p0000 Reine Beau, D. Grissell, 11-10-0 ..... M. Bastard 4

15-8 Medoc, 7-2 Miss Pilgrim, 9-2 Aldo, 7-1 Abo, 10-1 Willy What, 12-1 Tudor Mystery, 16-1 Town Counsellor, 20-1 others.

3.0 E. COOMES HURDLE (Handicap: £3,277: 2½m)

301 410-272 Swanee Prince (CD), F. Winter, 7-12-0 ..... J. Francome
302 0-21341 Killer Shark (D), G. P.-Gordon, 6-11-10 ..... S. Smith Eccles
305 3211-00 Royal Coachman (CD), R. Hannon, 7-11-2 ..... J. King
304 030013 Tompion, Mrs D. Oughton, 7-10-12 ..... P. Scudamore
305 0-30243 Toyco (CD, B), E. Beeson, 6-10-11 ..... R. Goldstein
308 11-0000 Ancient Briton (D), J. Gifford, 6-10-8 ..... C. Enright
309 30-3r00 Azd, M. Masson, 6-10-5 ..... A. Turnell
310 31-00uf Cold Justice (C,D), C. Benstead, 8-10-3 ..... R. Rowell
311 042100 Full Sutton, D. Kent, 8-10-0 ..... P. Haynes
312 44112f Mount Temple (C), D. Morley, 5-10-0 ..... B. R. Davies
315 021-00f Taras (B), A. Aylett, 5-10-0 ..... G. Jones
317 000203 Knocknagin (B), D. Mills, 8-10-0 ..... Mrs D. Grissell 4
318 10/0000 Island Star (D), N. Lee-Judson, 8-10-0 ..... J. Hughes 7
319 0-40002 Orange Town Man, D. Browning, 5-10-0 ..... P. Double 7
320 314/pp-p Promalta (C), A. Moore, 7-10-0 ..... G. Moore
321 0f4f-p0 Dracons Girl, Mrs R. Murdoch, 9-10-0 ..... B. Reilly

7-2 Killer Shark, 5-1 Swanee Prince, 6-1 Toyco, 13-2 Tompion, 8-1 Full Sutton, Taras, 10-1 Royal Coachman, 12-1 Mount Temple, Orange Town Man, 14-1 others.

3.30 INTERCRAFT CHASE (Selling handicap: £1,126: 2m 3f)

401 34/000p Fin, M. Madgwick, 12-11-12 ..... Mr A. Madgwick 7
402 0?0105 Baltic Love (B), G. Blum, 9-11-12 ..... J. Barlow
403 03/000 Handsome Prince, P. Cundell, 9-11-11 ..... P. Hobbs
404 430003 Geoffs Choice (C), J. Long, 11-11-9 ..... P. Haynes
405 001200 Santoss, J. Bradley, 8-11-8 ..... G. Davies 7
40? Cortado, H. Forsey, 11-11-6 ..... M. Richards 7
410 pu1004 London Journal, A. Jarvis, 6-11-4 ..... S. Smith Eccles
411 23/2f-0 Old Smokey (C), M. Bolton, 12-11-4 ..... J. Francome
413 0100-3p Mr Q, R. Barrow, 13-11-3 ..... Miss J. Barrow 7
415 443490 Tight Schedule (C), J. Bridger, 11-11-0 ..... Mrs D. Grissell 4
416 0c000u- Gwaynton, T. Hallett, 7-10-12 ..... B. Wright 4
417 044000 Jackadandy (B), A. Moore, 10-10-12 ..... G. Moore 4
418 23/00-? Hal's Treasure, W. Marshall, 7-10-11 ..... S. McNeill
420 320400 Bill's Brother (B), Mrs E. Andrews, 12-10-11 ..... Mrs A. Andrews 7
421 040-/00 Princely Contest, R. Howe, 9-10-11 ..... C. Kinane
423 03p-200 Gypsy Roamer, A. Rumsey, 10-10-6 ..... Mr M. Castell 4
425 130330 Lloyd Ardua, B. Cambidge, 8-10-1 ..... C. Mann 7

5-2 Handsome Prince, 9-2 London Journal, 5-1 Santoss, 7-1 Geoffs Choice, 8-1 Old Smokey, 10-1 Baltic Love, 12-1 Jackadandy, 14-1 Bills Brother, 16-1 others.

4.0 WALLANDS HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £552: 2m)

501 124 Ansumdus (D), N. Henderson, 11-5 ..... J. Nolan
502 201 Baron Blakeney (D), M. Pipe, 11-5 ..... P. Leach
503 0100-0 Calvanist (CD), A. Ingham, 11-3 ..... M. O'Halloran
504 1002 Albrizzi, J. Jenkins, 10-10 ..... B. Reilly
505 00 Armatox, M. Bolton, 10-10 ..... R. Rowell
506 00 Batting On, E. Beeson, 10-10 ..... R. Goldstein
507 004030 Black Earl, T. Hallett, 10-10 ..... T. Hallett
508 043 City Link Express, P. Ashworth, 10-10 ..... K. Berry 4
509 60 Court Green, Mrs N. Smith, 10-10 ..... A. Webb
510 20p Laurium, G. P.-Gordon, 10-10 ..... S. Smith Eccles
511 p000 Martin's Choice, E. Andrews, 10-10 ..... Mr S. Andrews 7
515 00 Matagold, P. M. Taylor, 10-10 ..... S. Knightley 7
517 0 Mr Mole, Mrs D. Oughton, 10-10 ..... S. Axis 7
518 rpp000 Nice On The Ice, C. Gyzer, 10-10 ..... A. Curran 4
520 0 Studio Copy, K. Bailey, 10-10 ..... A. Webber

2-1 City Link Express, 7-1 Ansumdus, 7-2 Baron Blakeney, 7-1 Albrizzi, 10-1 Black Earl, 14-1 Calvanist, 16-1 Laurium, 20-1 others.

4.30 SCOTTS CHASE (Handicap: £1,702: 2m 3f)

602 4220-f Solihull Sport (CD), D. Gandolfo, 7-11-5 ..... P. Barton
603 30001p Glissando, D. Wise, 9-11-2 ..... J. Akehurst 7
604 p-C0253 Zagros (B), N. Henderson, 7-11-1 ..... S. Smith Eccles
605 0/3-0/03 Benny's Boy, A. Moore, 8-10-13 ..... G. Moore 4
606 0333 3f Irish Quicksteps, M. P. Dickinson, 11-10-12 ..... Mr P. Webber
607 030220 Kings Champion, R. Armytage, 9-10-11 ..... R. Davies
608 3-p330u Right Regal (B), J. Old, 9-10-7 ..... J. Francome
611 001051 Commander Christy, H. O'Neill, 5-10-5 ..... G. Gracey 4
612 000u3f Extrovert, D. Jermy, 9-10-4 ..... B. de Haan 4
613 00p/32 Vaunted, J. Long, 11-10-3 ..... P. Upson
614 n50014 Bronze Image, J. Long, 8-10-2 ..... Mr T. Head
616 0-u00p Ebony Rose, J. Bridger, 8-10-0 ..... J. Suthern

11-4 Solihull Sport, 7-2 Zagros, 4-1 Kings Champion, 6-1 Vaunted, 7-1 Glissando, 10-1 Irish Quicksteps, 14-1 Benny's Boy, 16-1 others.

5.0 MADHATTERS SWEEPSTAKES (Amateurs: 2m Flat)

2 Ballycarn, A. Pratt, 6-12-7 ..... Capt A. Pratt
4 Daley, G. Balding, 6-12-7 ..... D. Jones
5 Denny Street, D. Nicholson, 6-12-7 ..... Mrs A. Barclay
6 Gallinezo, D. Nicholson, 6-12-7 ..... D. Thompson
7 Lewesion, J. O'Donoghue, 5-12-7 ..... Mrs J. Holderness-Roddam
8 Love Lili, R. Head, 4-12-7 ..... J. Cotton
9 Pleasure Bld, W. Musson, 6-12-7 ..... Mrs L. Norton
10 Shackletons Flier, R. Shaw, 7-12-7 ..... R. Shaw
11 Topseed, J. Gifford, 6-12-7 ..... Mrs S. Stevenson
12 Waterside Jo, R. Head, 5-12-7 ..... Miss S. Roger-Smith
13 Eridge Country, E. Beeson, 4-12-0 ..... Miss L. Prior-Palmer
15 O'Gara, C. Balding, 4-12-0 ..... J. Rhodes
16 Pitskelly Blues, A. Jarvis, 4-12-0 ..... A. Garvey
19 Wimscy, R. Head, 4-12-0 ..... Miss J. Starkey
20 Win Talk, O. O'Neill, 4-12-0 ..... J. Hill

5-2 Wimscy, 4-1 Pitskelly Blues, 5-1 Denny Street, 13-2 Gallinazo, 8-1 Topseed, 10-1 Daley, 12-1 O'Gara, 14-1 Eridge Country, 16-1 others.

Plumpton selections

By Michael Seely

2.0 Imperium. 2.30 Medoc. 3.0 Tompion. 3.30 London Journal. 4.0 City Link Express. 4.30 Zagros. 5.0 Topseed.

Kelso programme

2.15 CRAILING HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £468: 2m)

1 322123 Armit Water, G. Dun, 10-11-4 ..... Mr Dun
3 000002 Better Red, W. A. Stephenson, 6-11-4 ..... Lamb
4 0004/00- Cool Sol, T. Barnes, 6-11-4 ..... Johnston
5 0 Gilzie Bank, R. McDonald, 6-11-4 ..... Hawkins
11 00 Miss Lausienne, G. Lockerbie, 5-11-4 ..... Balmer
13 000-0p4 Sole Investment, T. Craig, 7-11-4 ..... Brown
15 fpl0 Tirps, F. Watson, 6-11-5 ..... Mr Watson
16 04 Tocketts Mill, P. Calver, 5-11-4 ..... Tinkler
18 0pp Gandolf, G. Bell, 4-10-5 ..... Pimlott
19 C0 Miss Apollo, T. Cuthbert, 5-10-5 ..... Charlton
20 0220 Tarchin, S. Leadbetter, 4-10-5 ..... Barnes

9-4 Tocketts Mill, 11-4 Tarchin, 9-2 Better Red, 6-1 Miss Lausienne, 8-1 Gilzie Bank, 10-1 Armit Water, 12-1 Miss Apollo, 20-1 others.

2.45 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS CUP CHASE (Handicap: £1,696: 3m)

3 00004f Tangles Brother (C), T. Craig, 9-11-1 ..... Grant
4 p1101b Another Captain (D), A. Scott, 9-10-12 ..... C. Hawkins
5 44302p Caldbeck, D. MacDonald, 11-10-8 ..... Goulding
7 up-03f *Solo Sam (CD), R. Brewis, 9-10-4 ..... —
8 4-u2021 Peaty Sandy (C), Miss H. Hamilton, 7-10-5 ..... Mr Dun
9 3203p0 Cashea (C), W. A. Stephenson, 8-10-2 ..... Lamb
12 221210 Highway Dual (D), G. Bell, 6-10-0 ..... Pimlott
13 p00142 What A Coup (CD), I. Dalgetty, 6-10-0 ..... Nolan

6-2 Another Captain, 5-1 Peaty Sandy, 9-2 Highway Dual, 6-1 What A Coup, 8-1 Cashea, 10-1 Tangles Brother, 12-1 Caldbeck, 20-1 others.

3.15 MOREBATTLE HURDLE (Handicap: £980: 2¼m)

2 100-010 Reggie Driffield, P. Calver, 5-11-12 ..... Tinkler
3 0411/0-0 Suzy Mandel (C), R. Allan, 6-11-1 ..... Goulding
7 f0110p Never Stop, G. Bell, 4-10-10 ..... Pimlott
8 2/0000-0 Quay Man (B), J. S. Wilson, 6-10-9 ..... Grant
9 1000/00 Probus, A. Fowler, 7-10-8 ..... MacWilliams
10 240000 Northern Support (C), A. Scott, 7-10-7 ..... Barnes
11 0020i-U Canty's Brig, D. Thomson, 8-10-5 ..... Atkins
12 010000 Nellie's Lad (D,B), W. A. Stephenson, 8-10-4 ..... Lamb
17 1-00040 Nodana, T. Craig, 5-10-0 ..... Brown
19 p01310 Pretty Boy Floyd (D), G. Lockerbie, 8-10-0 ..... Stringer
21 2200/04- Belcraig (C), Lord Kilmany, 6-10-0 ..... Holmes
22 000040 Grayhouse Angus, C. Bravery, 8-10-0 ..... Brownless
24 00-0100 *Regency Wood, T. Craig, 6-10-0 ..... —
25 1-24000 Floran, T. Cuthbert, 7-10-0 ..... Charlton

11-4 Reggie Driffield, 7-2 Pretty Boy Floyd, 9-2 Never Stop, 6-1 Suzy Mandel, 12-1 Floran, 20-1 others.

3.45 CRAILING HURDLE (Div II: novices: £505: 2m)

1 134000 Press Gang (B), J. S. Wilson, 6-12-0 ..... Stringer
2 0p0030 Accountess, G. Bell, 8-11-4 ..... Pimlott
4 0 *Beau Blondel, G. Bell, 5-11-4 ..... —
6 00000- Blue Reef, W. A. Stephenson, 6-11-4 ..... Lamb
9 0f Darth Vader, K. Oliver, 5-11-4 ..... O'Connell
10 0 Dunaram, T. Barnes, 6-11-4 ..... Johnston
12 00 Gambling Fox, K. Morgan, 5-11-4 ..... Brown
13 000/000- Justin Thyme, V. Thompson, 6-11-4 ..... Mr Thompson
16 0-03304 Lyne Mill, D. Swindlehurst, 7-11-4 ..... Mr Swindlehurst
17 4000-0 Manesty, D. MacDonald, 6-11-4 ..... Goulding
20 000p00 Mullanan, T. Barron, 6-11-4 ..... A. Balmer 7
21 00 Polo Pop, Denys Smith, 5-11-4 ..... Grant
22 000000 Private Business, W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-4 ..... Gray
25 0-000 Victory Morn, J. Dixon, 5-11-4 ..... Barnes
26 03104 Hold Off (D), Miss H. Hamilton, 4-11-1 ..... Mr Dun
27 000 *Hibalook, G. Bell, 4-10-5 ..... —
28 0 Kumen Sunshine, W. Fairgrieve, 4-10-5 ..... D. Nolan
30 Rosie's Secret, G. Lockerbie, 4-10-5 ..... Balmer

7-2 Hold Off, 9-2 Lyne Mill, 5-1 Beau Blondel, 6-1 Press Gang, 7-1 Manesty, 10-1 Accountess, Gambling Fox, 12-1 Polo Pop, Hibalook, 20-1 others.

4.15 CESSFORD CHASE (Hunters: £505: 3m)

2 213- Gayle Warning (CD), J. Dudgeon, 7-12-7 ..... Mr Dudgeon
3 13fu0-p Master Marmaduke, G. Bell, 8-12-7 ..... Mr Shiels
4 1-111p-3 Queensberry Lad (CD), W. Macmillan, 9-12-7 ..... Mr Macmillan
6 1120-22 Tilston (CD), Mr H. Shields, 9-12-7 ..... Miss Williamson
6 00pf2/1- Viking Knight, Mrs F. Dunn, 8-12-7 ..... Mr Dun
7 1-0 West Acre, R. Macnaughton, 8-12-7 ..... Mr Macnaughton
8 C02pp-1- Astral Charmer, C. Bell, 8-12-0 ..... Miss Bell
11 Fly Myrtle, N. Murray, 8-12-0 ..... Mr J. M. Dun 7
13 021p-03 Prince Keel, J. Wade, 10-12-0 ..... Mr Wade
18 2-3 Willow Burn, R. Brewis, 7-12-0 ..... Mr Brewis

7-4 Queensbury Lad, 7-2 Tilston, 9-2 Willow Burn, 6-1 Gayle Warning, 8-1 Viking Knight, 12-1 Prince Keel, 20-1 others.

4.45 YETHOLM CHASE (Novices: £876: 2m 196yd)

1 u1f212 Dusky Duke, W. A. Stephenson, 6-12-0 ..... Lamb
2 000044 Gold Invader, A. Scott, 8-11-7 ..... C. Hawkins
3 201/013 Gorgeous Gertie, W. Crawford, 9-11-7 ..... Doughty
5 4/p23-00 Carsedo, Mrs R. Bradburne, 9-11-0 ..... Mr Bradburne
10 000/00- Harpercroft, K. Goldie, 7-11-0 ..... Grant
12 p000p0 Kildale, F. Watson, 8-11-0 ..... Mr Watson
13 0-02110 Lord Provost, Miss H. Hamilton, 7-11-0 ..... Mr Dun
14 030020 Merry Missus, D. Moorhead, 7-11-0 ..... McCaskill
17 006pp5 Mossider (B), J. Thompson, 9-11-0 ..... Mr P. Craggs
18 332-00p Move Up, W. Murray, 10-11-0 ..... D. Atkins
19 030pf2 Patient Knight, R. Cross, 8-11-0 ..... Wayte
20 fpu0/u3 Reformina, V. Thompson, 8-11-0 ..... Mr Thompson
21 0-pu0fb Running Blind, A. Macdonald, 8-11-0 ..... Barry
22 03-000 Thimothea, T. Craig, 6-11-0 ..... Brown
23 324400 Trearnie, T. Barnes, 6-11-0 ..... Barnes
24 p0-0cf0 Water Crescent, R. Allan, 6-11-0 ..... Holohan

15-8 Dusky Duke, 5-1 Lord Provost, 9-2 Gorgeous Gertie, 7-1 Patient Knight, 8-1 Gold Invader, 10-1 Merry Missus, 12-1 Move Up, 20-1 others.

5.15 MERVINSLAW RACE (£493: 2m Flat)

1 Arctic Menelek, J. Fitzgerald, 6-11-13 ..... Brennan
2 Bromwich Eddie, R. Cross, 5-11-13 ..... Miss Cross
4 Christmas Deal, R. Allan, 6-11-13 ..... Holohan
6 Keran, T. Cuthbert, 5-11-13 ..... Mr A. Balmer
7 Lex Kelly, Denys Smith, 5-11-13 ..... Stringer
8 Master Elastor, W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-13 ..... Davies
9 Min. Glint, G. Bell, 5-11-13 ..... Miss Bell
10 Prince Of Rebellion, F. Walton, 5-11-13 ..... Mr Walton
12 Tabulated, W. A. Stephenson, 6-11-13 ..... Mr McIntyre
13 Tweed's Gift, T. Robson, 6-11-13 ..... Miss Lock
14 Wild Rudolph, D. Moorhead, 6-11-13 ..... Mr Reed
16 Copper Watch, J. Berry, 4-11-0 ..... Miss Hargreaves
17 Don't Ask, J. Nelson, 4-11-0 ..... Miss Bell
18 Dunnikier House, K. Oliver, 4-11-0 ..... Mr Dun
19 Glen Duc, W. Storey, 4-11-0 ..... Miss Storey
21 High Kype, J. S. Wilson, 4-11-0 ..... Dick
22 Joe Sunlight, C. Thornton, 4-11-0 ..... Wilkinson
23 Mighty Spoor, J. Berry, 4-11-0 ..... Mrs Berry
25 Mont-A-L'Abbe, W. Elsey, 4-11-0 ..... Smith
26 Northern Knight, J. Berry, 4-11-0 ..... Houlker
27 Rheinicken, B. Boustield, 4-11-0 ..... Silk
28 Shooler Prince, F. Watson, 4-11-0 ..... Mr Watson
29 Spring Slipper, T. Barron, 4-11-0 ..... Adrian Balmer 7
30 Westwood Deal, M. Naughton, 4-11-0 ..... Bradley

4-1 Joe Sunlight, 5-1 Dunnikier House, 6-1 Lex Kelly, 7-1 Arctic Menelek, 8-1 Westwood Deal, 10-1 Northern Knight, Tabulated, Rheinicken, 12-1 Spring Slipper, Don't Ask, 20-1 others.

*Doubtful runner

Kelso selections

By Michael Seely

2.15 Tocketts Mill. 2.45 PEATY SANDY is specially recommended. 3.15 Quay Man. 3.45 Hold Off. 4.15 Queensberry Lad. 4.45 Lord Provost. 5.15 Mont-A-L'Abbe.

Leicester results

1.15 (1.16) GARTHORPE CHASE (Div 1: Maiden Hunters: £?: 3m)
FRENCH PEACOCK b g by Nos Royalistes—Khylyinub (B. Hind), 9-12-0 ..... Mr B. Hind (11-1) 1
Green Sandpiper ..... Mr J. Pritchard (33-1) 2
Feature ..... Mr C. Bealby (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.60; places, 32p, 63p, 70p. Dual F: £6.75. CSF: £31.16. B. Hind, Oakley. 1l, 8l. Cummerband, 7-4 fav. 15 ran.

2.15 (2.20) MELTON HUNT CHASE (Hunters: £?: 2m)
GENERAL CONFUSION b g by Spartan General—Fine Fluster (G. Cooper), 10-11-5 ..... Mr G. Cooper (8-13 fav) 1
Alsmat ..... Mr P. Howse (12-1) 2
Right Tactics ..... Miss C. Braw (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 15p; places, 10p, 12p, 18p. Dual F: 20p. CSF: 89p. G. Cooper. Manningtree. 2½l, 5l. Oatley Pride (7-1) 4th. 8 ran.

2.45 (2.49) STURGESS CHASE (Hunters: £2,026: 3m)
GRITTAR b g by Grisaille—Torama (F. Gilman), 8-12-2 ..... Mr C. Saunders (12-1) 1
Shannon Bridge ..... Mr O. Sherwood (1-2 fav) 2
Set Point ..... Miss P. Kirby (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.65; places, 15p, 11p, 27p. Dual F: 80p. CSF: £1.85. F. Gilman, Uppingham. 8l, 12l. Red Gem (50-1) 4th. 13 ran. NR: Choral Prince.

3.15 (3.18) MEYNELL CHASE (Handicap: Amateurs: £1,158: 2½m)
LINARTO, ch m, by Articulate—Solindum (F. Coton), 10-10-0 ..... Mr A. J. Sharpe (25-1) 1
Forbidden Fruit ..... Mr T. Thomson Jones (7-4) 2
Regents Choice ..... Mr T. G. Dun (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.34; places, 21p, 10p, 57p. Dual F: £2.49. CSF: £6.30. F. Coton, at Nottingham. 20l, 8l. Zarzatine (100-1), 4th. 9 ran.

3.45 (3.47) THRUSTERS CHASE (Hunters: £622: 2m)
SILVERTOWN, gr g, by Warwick—Sea Snake (Mrs J. Bainbridge), 13-11-3 ..... Miss Alison Dare (7-2) 1
Quick Choice ..... Mr R. Stuart Hunt (2-1 fav) 2
Marshal Niel ..... Miss P. Mumford (15-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 48p; places, 15p, 18p, 17p. Dual F: £1.91. CSF: £1.04. Mrs J. Bainbridge, at Berkeley. 20l, 1l. Jim Lad (6-1), 4th. 9 ran.

4.15 (4.18) GARTHORPE CHASE (Div II: Maiden hunters: £630: 3m)
JIMMYFISHER, b g, by Tricolore—Flaming Out (P. Mann), 10-12-0 ..... Mr P. Mann (7-1) 1
Taken On ..... Miss C. Saunders (7-1) 2
Chingsun ..... Mr R. Woolley (16-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 60p; places, 20p, 29p, 51p. Dual F: £5.20. CSF: £?. P. Mann, at Leamington Spa. 6l, 20l. Hunter's Guide, 2-1 fav. Lorn-Da-Dee (8-1), 4th. 13 ran. NR: Kay's Dream.
PLACEPOT: £10.45.

Doncaster results

2.0 (2.0) ASKERN MAIN HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £690: 2½m)
PRINCE BAI, b g, by Ribero—Siorr's Sterling (V. Morton), 5-11-0 ..... T. Carmody (5-2 fav) 1
Celtic Tara ..... C. Tinkler (9-2) 2
Fanadix ..... P. Scudamore (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 27p; places, 22p, 19p, 24p. Dual F: £1.17. CSF: £?. A. Jarvis, at Royston. 1l, 10l. Courtleigh (20-1), 4th. 16 ran.

2.30 (2.31) BARNBY DUN HURDLE (Handicap: amateurs: £1,212: 2½m)
SOLAR EMPEROR, ch g, by Tyrant—Lura (J. Fawcett), 5-10-? ..... Mr T. Easterby (2-1 fav) 1
Padail ..... Mr A. Hollinshead (7-1) 2
Rigorous ..... Miss K. Simpson (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 22p; places, 15p, 10p, £1.21. Dual F: 49p. CSF: £1.61. M. H. Easterby, at Great Habton. 5l, 1l. Rare You Ten (7-1), 4th. 17 ran. NR: Plu, Babus Brief.

3.0 (3.01) HIGH MELTON CHASE (Handicap: £2,173: 3m)
HIGHWAY PATT, b g, by Royal Highway—Beggars Birthday (J. Tomlon), 8-10-8 ..... P. Scudamore (7-2) 1
Megan's Boy ..... P. A. Charlton (2-1 fav) 2
Silent Valley ..... R. Lamb (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 42p; places, 18p, 11p, 51p. Dual F: £?. CSF: £1.05. D. Nicholson, at Stow-on-the-Wold. 6l, 6l. Something-in-hand (10-1), 4th. 8 ran. NR: Another Captain.

3.30 (3.32) PRINCESS ROYAL HURDLE (Handicap: £3,071: 2m 150yd)
CHINA COD b g by Cumshaw—White Goddess (Mrs M. White), 8-10-0 ..... P. Scudamore (12-1) 1
Grey Mountain ..... G. Enright (9-2 fav) 2
Bertie Me Boy ..... Mr T. Easterby (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.09; places, 28p, 14p, 46p. Dual F: £2.47. CSF: £6.64. W. D. Francis at Malpas. 5l, 5l. Bamp (5-1), 4th. 12 ran. NR: Anointed.

4.0 (4.01) FEVERSHAM CHASE (Novices: £1,492: 2m 150yd)
LITTLE BAY b g by Little Buskins—Keem Bay (Mrs S. Catherwood), 6-11-10 bl ..... R. Barry (4-5 fav) 1
Mister Ketchup ..... C. Tinkler (14-1) 2
Colin Porter ..... G. McCourt (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 17p; places, 12p, 56p, £1.45. Dual F: £2.10. CSF: £1.55. G. Richards at Greystoke. 3l, 4l. Princess Token (12-1), 4th. 9 ran. NR: Pegalus, Benowen.

4.30 (4.31) ASKERN MAIN HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £690: 2½m)
BOSSALL br g by Warpath—Miss Barbara (Mrs C. Bielby), 5-11-0 ..... B. Smart (15-1) 1
Exby Arco ..... D. Dutton (5-1) 2
Orchard Park ..... P. Harman (5-2 fav) 3
TOTE: Win, £2.28; places, 64p, 29p, 17p. Dual F: £9.10. CSF: £8.7?. Mrs J. Pitman at Lambourn. 4l, 1½l. Chateau Royal (5-1), 4th. 12 ran. NR: Metrolanda, Gold Prince.

JACKPOT: Not won. Pool of £7,201 carried forward to Plumpton today.
Placepot: Win, £5.10.

Following Mrs Thatcher's remarks about a western military force in the Gulf, Richard Owen assesses the prospects for stability in this vital oil area

Parliament building, Kuwait, and the ruler, Emir Jaber al Ahmed al Sabah, who risked fresh parliamentary elections.

Keeping on terms with the Gulf

The Prime Minister has some fence-mending to do to convince Arab rulers that the West wants to cooperate, not dictate to them . . .

Is there a chance of genuine democracy developing in the Gulf? The question is becoming more urgent in the wake of Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington, as the United States starts to discuss with its European allies what western policy toward the Gulf should be. Some foreign policy officials in the Reagan Administration take the view that since the Gulf is a region of vital interest to the United States, and the West as a whole, local regimes—whatever their character—must be propped up at all costs.

European leaders, on the other hand, would like to see the Sultans and Emirs of the Gulf States responding more actively to pressures within their countries for social and political change. Oil supplies and security go hand in hand for the Europeans, just as they do for the Americans—more so, in fact, since Western Europe is more dependent on oil from the Gulf than America. But on this side of the Atlantic, the long term view is that the best way of ensuring stability in the Gulf is if local regimes adopt democratic forms of government. And the corollary of that is that if changes are *not* made, the resulting upheavals could damage western interests.

There are some signs that the Gulf States — which after all have only been independent for a relatively short time—are on the move. Kuwait is a case in point. Because of its position at the north-west end of the Gulf, Kuwait is of strategic importance, and its high oil output gives it a key economic role. Experiments with democracy in this tightly-ruled emirate might seem risky, but the ruling al Sabah family has shown courage and determination in modernizing Kuwait's institutions as well as its environment.

Elections to a National Assembly were held in Kuwait following independence from Britain in 1961. But the Assembly was dissolved in 1976, on the grounds that it was dominated by "dangerous radicals" who were subverting the state. Some of those advising Emir Jaber al Ahmed al Sabah would no doubt have liked the National Assembly to remain defunct. But he has risked fresh parliamentary elections, and the result has vindicated his trust in Kuwaiti common sense.

Government-supported candidates swept the board (not without a little help in the way of publicity). Islamic fundamentalists also did well. Those favouring the extremist brand of Islamic revivalism embraced by the Ayatollah Khomeini did poorly, on the other hand, even though the Khomeini revolution is based on the Shia branch of Islam, and a quarter of Kuwait's population are Shi-ites.

Kuwaiti democracy is far from perfect, however. Under Islamic law, women are effectively disenfranchised, so that only male Kuwaitis are eligible to vote. Over half the population of Kuwait consists of foreign migrant workers, from the Indian sub-continent, Iran, North and South Yemen, even from Oman further down the Gulf, and they too are banned from voting. This second class status is common for immigrants throughout the Gulf region, and a potential source of friction.

Much will now depend on whether other Gulf States follow Kuwait's example. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar have advisory councils, but nothing resembling parliamentary institutions. Throughout the Gulf, in fact, power is in the hands of small family groups, and although oil revenues have brought prosperity, how that prosperity is used depends on how enlightened and adaptable the individual ruler is.

In Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Sulman al-Khalifa is advised by a council partly drawn from circles outside the royal family, and is hoping to introduce a national assembly before long. On the other hand, a group calling itself the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has claimed that unrest is systematically repressed, and even Amnesty International has expressed concern over the death in detention of two political prisoners last year.

It is sometimes argued that western institutions and mores are not necessarily appropriate to Islamic cultures, which have their own time-honoured methods for consultation between rulers and ruled. This argument is most forcefully put in Saudi Arabia, the giant of the region, from which the smaller states in many ways take their lead. There are no political parties in Saudi Arabia, and all key cabinet posts are in the hands of the ruling family of al-Saud. But under the Islamic tradition of Shura, information about the needs of Saudi society does percolate upward, so that decisions are not made at the top in isolation.

Technological change is in any case obliging Gulf rulers increasingly to delegate authority to young, often western-educated technocrats. The problem for the West is how to encourage change of this kind, without opening the way for revolutionary groups likely to introduce regimes more despotic than the existing ones.

The ruling families of the Gulf are very much aware of the conflicts which threaten them, including strife between Shia and Sunni Muslims, antagonism between migrant workers and indigenous populations, and the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism. But they are naturally sensitive to what they see as attempts to impose policies on them, whether in connexion with the protection of oil supplies or internal change.

Mrs Thatcher's insensitively phrased remarks in Washington about the need for a western military force in the Gulf have brought out the negative side of the always ambivalent Arab relationship with Britain, which until 10 years ago was the main regional power. The Prime Minister has a fair amount of fence-mending to do during her visit to the Gulf next month if she is to convince local rulers that the Europeans are sensitive to their needs, and want to cooperate with them rather than dictate to them.

Bernard Levin

Why I will take my chance with the bosses

A body called the Campaign for Press Freedom (in the title of which the word "freedom" plays roughly the same role as does "duck" in "Bombay duck", "first-class" in "first-class post", or for that matter "People's" in "People's Republic of Albania") has expressed its view on the purchase of *The Observer* by Lonrho and of Times Newspapers by Mr Murdoch. The organization proposes that a "supervisory board" of "public trustees" should be set up by Parliament "to take overall responsibility for *The Observer*"; and that similar treatment should be meted out to Times Newspapers ("whereas . . . Rupert Murdoch proposes who should be the so-called independent directors we are urging that Parliament should make the choice").

That, as Bertie Wooster used to say, made the old head swim a bit. The newspapers in this country—the national ones, *anyway*—are in a fairly parlous condition, but so is a man with acute peritonitis, yet suggestions that he should jump off Beachy Head as a means of curing it would, I imagine, be looked at askance by the patient. I have no doubt that some of the more eager Campaigners for Press Freedom look forward to the day when, the Parliament-appointed "supervisory board" having taken "overall responsibility" for the press (would anybody who believed that it would stop at *The Observer* and Times Newspapers, or is even meant to, kindly leave the room, because if there is one thing I can't abide it is naivety), a government headed by Mr Wedgwood Benn, himself, naturally, a supporter of this dubious Campaign, will start handing out the jobs ("Parliament should make the choice just as it does in the case of membership of the Independent Broadcasting Authority or the Board of Governors of the BBC").

I could write the list now. Indeed, I shall. The Press Authority, in such circumstances, would consist of Mr Ted Knight of Lambeth Council and the Militant Tendency; Mr Arthur Scargill; *Ms* Frances Morell; Mr Michael Meacher, MP; Mr Denis McShane; a representative, *ex officio*, of the Anti-Nazi League; Miss Vanessa Redgrave; Mr Paul Foot; Miss Joan Maynard, MP; Mr Bruce Page; Mr Moss Evans (who already believes that the ancient practice of licensing the press should be revived); Mr Felix Greene; Mr Corin Redgrave; Mr Tariq Ali; and the Editor, *pro tem.* of *Time Out*. (Corresponding members, some trifling difficulties with the Home Office making it impossible for them to visit this country, will be Mr Ralph Schoenman and Mr Philip Agee.)

But the important thing about this pestilent proposal is not the use to which it might ultimately be put, and to which, indeed, there are people active in our public life who are determined that it *will* be put, if the ranks of the proposed Overseers of the Press consisted entirely of exceptionally liberal-minded Archangels it would still be a very bad idea indeed.

There are *certainly* countries—very many of them—in which the government has "overall responsibility" for the press, and in which the government's appointees certainly are (I quote again from the statement by the Campaign for Press Freedom) "responsible for long-term policy decisions about both the editorial and business development of the paper and the appointment of the editor"; two internationally-known organs of which the above is a most precise description are *Pravda* and *Izvestia*, and to judge by all I hear from my many friends on both papers the system works with great efficiency and harmony. But the result is not what *I* mean by press freedom. If it comes to that, the Campaign for Press Freedom also says that the supervisory board will ensure that the press is "accountable to the public at large". But it already is, every day of its life, as the readers decide whether or not to buy it.

Once the Government—*any* government—starts taking over-all or any other kind of "responsibility" for the press, the press might as well go out of business at once. (The analogy with the IBA and the BBC Governors is, of course, false. The number of broadcasting channels is limited, for technical reasons among *others*; in the case of the commercial channels a choice therefore has to be made among those competing for the right to use them, and in the case of both the commercial channels and the BBC editorial opinion has to aim at impartiality among competing political and other views.)

The other day I criticized Lord Denning's thesis about the duty of the press to be "responsible". I argued that the press has no such responsibility, and must never have it imposed, because free speech, if it is to be meaningful at all, must be equally available to scoundrels and honest men, to the irresponsible as well as the responsible, to those who want to use it for bad ends no less than to those who want to use it for good. Once that principle is forgotten or eroded, there is no place to stop short of a body outside the press being given the duty of defining responsibility and enforcing their definition with appropriate penalties.

But that call for a "responsible" press was expressed in the *obiter dicta* of an eminent judge who was certainly *not* suggesting government control of the press; his remedy was only the use of the existing law by those charged with int preting and applying ("Someone has to be truste let it be the judges".) Ev so, I made my dissent cle and I was interested to get number of letters expressi agreement, from fellow-journ lists proud to accept my de nition of our profession essentially and vitally a coll tion of rogues and vagabon Some of these were from in nalists involved in rece battles which involved pr freedom in a most direct wa I hope they will be equa ready to condemn this p posterous and sinister devel ment.

For there is one importa and revealing difference tween the recent rows and t current one. In the former t enemy was the law and t judges; now it is the boss (There was another distincti too, as a matter of fact; t interference with press fr dom in the former had actua taken place, whereas at t moment the opposition is bei mounted at interference whi hasn't. It does make a diff ence, you know.) Those w want to restrict the press the name of the law can sure to find our more— *active* journalists defyi them; it is not quite fashionable, I suspect, to de those who want to restrict t press in the name of indepe dence from the wick capitalists.

So let us pose the questi as starkly as we can. Let assume the very worst possib lity; that Mr Rupert Murdo and Mr "Tiny" Rowland ha *no intention of abiding* by t pledges they have given, th they will interfere in the newspapers' editorial indepe dence, that they will try remove matter critical of the other business activities, th they will, in short, prove ther selves to be villains of th darkest hue. If we assume a that, we are in a position know instantly where we star on the freedom of the pres For the question then is: wou you rather have that, or wou you rather have the Gover ment appoint a "superviso board" to "take overall r sponsibility" for the pres including "long-term poli decisions about *both* t editorial and business develo ment of the paper", so that may be "accountable to th public at large"?

Applying that test, I have r doubt at all where I stand. E the bosses the greatest blac guards unhanged, I will tak my chance with them, and fig them when I have to (and i my time I *have* had to), rathe than concede the state powe one atom of the right t "supervise" the press. An that is why I am a supporte of the campaign for pres freedom, and therefore a opponent of the Campaign for Press Freedom.

The EEC farm policy that is not as black as it is painted

Slanging the CAP is a fashionable but dangerous pastime because the benefits of agriculture can be forgotten

With the publication of the EEC Commission's proposals for agricultural prices for the coming year, attention is once again focused on the Common Agriculture Policy and its central part in European affairs. Familiar arguments can be heard about the alleged excessive costs of the policy and its impact on United Kingdom consumers.

Michael Shanks argued recently in *The Times* that the community was concentrating too much of its energies and its resources on agriculture and ignoring serious problems in manufacturing industry.

It is not for me to say whether the Community should have more fully developed industrial policies, or what such policies should be, but I would like to put right some of the misconceptions and inaccuracies which continue to appear when commentators turn their attention to European agriulture.

First, agriculture's share of the Community budget. It is true that this is about 70 per cent of total Community expenditure. However, the Community budget itself it not comparable to a national budget which is used to regulate the economy as a whole and influence the balance of resources used within it. National government expenditure commonly accounts for over 40 per cent of gross domestic product. In the United Kingdom the percentage reached 46 per cent in 1975/76. Expenditure on the CAP is rather less than 1 per cent of the total EEC gross domestic product.

Secondly, the idea that the CAP is of benefit only to what Michael Shanks called "the dwindling minority of Europe's workers". In the EEC farmers and growers directly employ about eight million people and agriculture is one of the biggest job providers. Agriculture employs relatively fewer people in the United Kingdom than in other Community countries but, largely because of a fine record in improving productivity, it remains Britain's biggest primary industry. Also, regard must be paid to the importance of agriculture to other sectors.

We reckon that in the United Kingdom for every person employed on the farm another two are employed in industries which supply goods for farming, or process and market farm output. If the same holds true throughout the Community (and the proportion could in practice be higher) then there are more than 20 million jobs which are dependent upon agriculture and horticulture. So it does not do to underestimate the importance of the industry in economic or employment terms.

Thirdly, the idea that all CAP prices are wildly out of line with prices on world markets, and are giving rise to mountains of produce which cannot be disposed of economically. So-called "world" prices for agricultural products are usually in themselves quite unrepresentative of realistic production costs. They often represent residual markets covering a relatively small proportion of total world supplies and the prices at which regular large purchases can be made are *normally* much nearer to EEC level.

Indeed, at present, even the "world" prices of a number of the main agricultural products are moving towards, or are above, the EEC levels. World consumption of grain has exceeded production for the past two years. Stocks have now reduced to the level they were at immediately before the great grain crisis of the early 1970s and additional land suitable for grain growing is no longer easily available. In a word, there are no cheap supplies of grain.

People often fail to comprehend the large quantities of food that would be needed to replace even a modest reduction in Community supplies. Australia's total availability of beef for export in 1979 was, for example, only some 700,000 tonnes—equivalent to perhaps 15 per cent of Community production. Given that there are other customers for that meat, one has to ask what effect an increased EEC import requirement might have on the offering prices of agricultural products.

In practice, the only temperate products of which there is a real surplus in the EEC are milk and sugar. Currently, with world prices above EEC levels, sugar is not a problem. Even the milk problem could be eased materially by a proper food and development aid programme but I accept that measures are required to stem the upward trend in EEC milk production.

The fourth misconception is that European farmers are growing fat at the expense of the rest of the Community. In fact, farm incomes have lagged badly behind those in other sectors. In this country, for example, farm incomes in real terms have been halved in four years. Despite our economic problems, wage earners in most manufacturing and other sectors have managed to keep abreast of inflation. Real farm incomes have fallen in all other Community countries as well, and in Denmark they have fallen no less than 90 per cent over the same period. And, contrary to popular mythology, agriculture and horticulture have been acting as a brake on inflation and not as an accelerator. In the year to January 1981, the retail price index in the United Kingdom rose by 13 per cent but the cost of food went up by only 9 per cent. Farm prices went up by even less.

It is tempting, therefore, to put the farmers' case on the CAP in terms of a fair comparison of incomes with the rest of the population. But to do so would be to overlook an even more important underlying concern. The British Isles and Europe are blessed with productive land and a good climate for food production. If properly used these resources can be of great long term benefit to our own consumers and to people elsewhere in the world not similarly blessed. But if the productive capacity is to be sustained and improved, it is essential for adequate financial resources to be put into agriculture. Slanging the CAP is a fashionable pastime but it is a dangerous one because it can lead to a situation where the economic and social benefits which derive from agriculture are forgotten. Farming is a resilient industry but it will not take very much more "restraint" to precipitate a full-blown crisis.

The test of the CAP, and of the farm ministers who administer it, is not so much whether a few resources can be diverted from agriculture into other Community policies, but whether the decisions can be made which will sustain for the next decades the contribution which agriculture has made to the British and European economy in the period since the war.

Richard Butler

The author is President of the National Farmers Union.

LONDON DIARY

The victorious gang of three at the LSE

I can offer a crumb of comfort to Messrs Owen, Rodgers and company as they are roundly abused this morning by their parliamentary colleagues for resigning the Labour whip. Their embryo social democratic party has won its first election. And the victory should be all the sweeter for having occurred at the London School of Economics.

Despite its lingering reputation as a hothouse of pronouncedly leftist student politics, social democratic candidates have captured the top three places in the LSE's student union elections, defeating hopefuls from a student Labour Club which has recently enjoyed divisions and defections not unakin to those the grown up party has been experiencing nationally.

John Munford, a former president of the National Union of School Students, Keir Hopley and Nick Newman, all politics students, were elected as general secretary (in effect the president), senior treasurer and social secretary of the LSE union, despite the fact that the social democratic grouping (too soon to call it a party) was formed only a fortnight ago.

To add insult to injured pride, the outgoing general secretary Ed Jacob, elected last year on a Labour Club ticket, has also defected to the social democrats.

The winning candidates place at least part of their success at the feet of Shirley Williams, who addressed a packed Fabian Society meeting on the eve of the poll.

Jacob told *The Times* yesterday that issues at the LSE reflected the national issues confronting the Labour Party—whether he should be accountable to the Labour Club or the union as a whole, whether the student paper should be the voice of the union or semi-independent, and how far the union should push LSE into resisting rises in overseas' students' fees, whatever the consequences.

New secretary Munford, who with Hopley is a former Labour Club member, said: "We are interested in practical policies rather than sloganizing. We have left-wing aims but we are democrats."

He hoped their success would be mirrored in other student unions. "There are plenty of students who basically have a left-wing standpoint but are also concerned about democracy," said Munford. If he is right, the Gang-of-I-Am-Rapidly-Losing-Count may yet regret the passing of the University seats from the House of Commons.

Watch this space tomorrow for further centrist revelations.

Eureka!

This is the promised moment at least 200 of you have been waiting for—the result of my recent competition to compose an encomium on Greece's accession to the EEC using English words derived from Greek.

Given the difficulty of the task, the response was gratifyingly enormous, spurred on no doubt by the draw of a glittering prize of the kind more often found in that less expensive popular newspaper which has recently become our sister-in-law.

The outright winner is Peter Peterson of Field Cottage, Farnham, Blandford Forum, Dorset. His entry was one of the shortest, an elegant pair of Sapphics:

"Down with archaic,
xenophobic anthems!
Let us Philhellenes with
enthusiastic
Polyglot paeans hymn in
Sapphic metre
New symbiosis.
Let lyre and syrinx through
the empyrean
Echo euphoric in ecstatic
chorus,
Hailing with frenzied,
syncopated rhythm
Hellas in Europe!"

He wins the first prize of a week's holiday for two by Olympic Holidays.

He wins not just for brevity, which is a virtue in journalism, but for neatness of expression. The judges, glassy-eyed from reading those 200-plus entries, were saddened by how many automatically disqualified themselves by writing far more than the maximum 200 words asked for.

They were surprised by how many more words directly descended from Greek than are dreamed of in their philosophy you had dug out. But how few verbs there are. Odd.

To be magisterial, too many competitors strove to show off their erudition rather than write good English or even sense. Entries came from as far away as Japan. One clever acrostic entry spelled PHILHELLENE. Several ingeniously alliterative entries worked their way through the alphabet from alpha to zeta. It was a pleasure to see so many schoolchildren putting up such a good show. One Oxford undergraduate wrote her encomium in the shape of a map of Greece (minus Mount Athos). Numerous couples competed against each other.

The second prize of L. R. Palmer's *The Greek Language* or a £25 book token goes to Mrs H. R. Halliwell for a brilliant parody of the first stanza of Keats's *Ode To A Grecian Urn*. She pipped by a short head Mr Halliwell of the above-mentioned acrostic.

Third prize of a bottle of 7-star Greek brandy, guaranteed to make you feel as though struck by Zeus's bolt, goes to Mr E. K. Stopford of Oxford for a short, persuasive entry in good Greek-English prose.

Sir David Hunt, one of the judges, will present the prizes at a suitably Bacchic orgy to be announced. Meanwhile thanks to all who took part: I wish we could have sent you all to the sun.

Tiger at bay

Mrs Thatcher, fresh from her uncompromisingly hawkish performance in the United States, will be pleased to hear the news from the constituency of Cardiff West, currently occupied by the Speaker, George Thomas. Local Conservatives have adopted Stefan Terlezki, a Ukranian Cardiff city councillor of pronouncedly right-wing views, to contest the seat at the next election.

Terlezki could not under any circumstances be mistaken for a Tory wet. He favours a national referendum to try to curb "damaging union power", but he should not be underrated; when he opposed James Callaghan in 1974 he reduced the Labour majority by more than 8,000 votes.

There is of course something of a tradition that the Speaker, of whatever persuasion, is *slightly* above party politics. Tory Central Office are stressing that Terlezki has been nominated in anticipation of George Thomas's retirement; the last and only occasion they fought the Speaker's seat was in 1895.

Indeed, for the first three decades of this century, Speakers' seats were not contested by any party. Since then someone has challenged the Speaker at every election; of the nine elections held in Speakers' seats between 1935 and 1974, four have been contested by independents, five by Labour, and three by Liberals. When he last faced the electors in 1979, George Thomas comfortably thwarted the aspirations of Welsh Nationalist and National Front candidates, even though his position prevented him from campaigning.

Memory blank

A severe attack of oriental amnesia has struck the Hongkong Oxford and Cambridge Society, which is trying to remember who is its current vice-president in order that he may become president this month.

The secretary, Colin Boscher, in a somewhat embarrassed statement, has disclosed that the society's annual Boat Race dinner at the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club last year became "boisterous", and that "during the strenuous activities all records and recollections were lost".

No member of the committee of the honourable club can apparently recall who was then appointed vice-president, a post which involves automatic ascension to the presidency the following year. Not even the successful appointee, it appears, can remember that he was picked. It must have been quite a party.

The outgoing president, Jonty Driver, has publicly announced that he and the secretary will be running an open line telephone day and night for any members who have "helpful information". Naturally they hope for a call from the vice-president should his memory be restored.

Driver, ever an optimist, believes that Oxbridge honour will prevent any imposter from claiming a title that is not rightfully his.

Third storey

Following the news that the august Royal Institute of British Architects has caught the London University democratic disease, and is to have its presidency contested for the first time in nearly 60 years, I hear that a third candidate has thrown his hat into the ring.

He is Jake Brown, who works for the Greater London Council, claims to represent the salaried as against the private practice architect, and delivered his challenge even later than the eleventh hour; to be precise, it was at 11.30 last Friday night, half an hour before nominations closed.

Brown will be fighting Andrew Derbyshire, the senior vice-president who was expected to be elected unopposed, and Owen Luder, a former treasurer. Since none has yet issued a manifesto, I can only guess that the main issues are likely to involve the ethics of allowing architects to advertise, and whether or not the RIBA is too aloof and elitist.

I hear that the TUC and the Tory Government are locked in an unusual embrace of cooperation to head off a potential embarrassment. Next Monday union leaders are due to visit the Department of Employment headquarters to unveil a centenary plaque to Ernest Bevin, founder of the TGWU and Churchill's minister of labour. Unfortunately, that very day civil servants are staging a one-day strike; neither side wishes to soil the Bevin memory with the sight of the TUC general council crossing a picket line, and alternative plans are being hurriedly examined.

Alan Hamilton

As money gets tighter the public asks a pertinent question

Is the growth in government expenditure desirable?

The share of our output that governments spend on paying their employees and buying in goods and services has been rising (Table I). In the good years, people were becoming more prosperous and they accepted increasing government expenditure philosophically. Now that economic growth rates have slowed, however, the public are starting to question the desirability of this growth in government expenditure.

The statistics which purport to measure government output at constant prices largely reflect not the quantity of services produced, but the quantity of manpower and other resources that are used in supplying those services. There is, therefore, no easy way of testing whether the value obtained from government services has risen fast enough to justify the rate of increase in expenditure on them.

One approach is to argue that a nation should buy less of a service if its relative price increases and more if it declines. Table II, therefore, compares trends in the price of government services relative to that of the domestic product taken as a whole, with the share in the quantity of resources devoted to these services. The relative price estimates make little or no allowance for improvements in the quantity or quality of the services. The table can, however, be used to estimate by how much these factors must have risen in each country to justify the trends in the allocation of resources.

In Germany the quantity or quality factors must have increased by well over 25 per cent since 1965 (the table understates the true position since, unlike the other countries, Germany assumes that productivity is improving when calculating government output at constant prices). In Britain the factors referred to must have increased by about 20 per cent, while in France, to justify the falling trend in resource share, the ratio of actual to apparent value should have risen by less than 20 per cent and in Italy there should have been no increase at all, or perhaps even a slight decline.

Is there any evidence to show that variations in the quantity or quality have behaved in these different ways in the different countries? The easiest services to examine are health and education, which account for between a third and a half of all government consumption. Basically we can use as our estimator or quantity the number of people receiving each type of service, but we must also consider whether there have been changes in quality.

Table III shows how much the number of students weighted by grade has grown in each country between 1965 and 1975. As a proxy for growth rates in the quantity of health services consumed, the table also shows indices for the number of admissions to non-psychiatric hospitals. The remaining columns of the table show the ratio between these indices and that for government expenditure at constant prices These are compared with the relative price indices shown in Table II. It will be seen that if we correct only for quantity the French and Italian figures are consistent with the declining shares noted.

For Germany, unless the education index is much more typical of growth in the quantity of services provided by the German Government than is the figure for hospital admissions, the rising share of resources devoted to government expenditure cannot he explained without recourse to quality improvements. Britain is in an even worse position. The increase in output quantity is less than the real increase in government expenditure. This means that to justify the rising share of resources devoted to government expenditure the quality of the services will have to have improved even faster than their relative price.

There is little evidence to suggest that the quality as opposed to the quantity of education has improved significantly since 1965. Some might be tempted to adopt the circular argument that any increase in resources used by a student represents an improvement in quality. However, educational researchers say attempts to demonstrate that small classes produce better results than large ones have been at best inconclusive, so it is unlikely that a reduction in pupil/teacher ratios leads to a pro rata increase in educational quality.

In health care, on the other hand, there have been improvements demonstrated by the declining rates of mortality associated with birth. Other factors besides improved health care contribute to the increased expectation of life. This figure therefore, represents the maximum benefit obtained from an improvement in health care although an allowance should be made if any reduction in suffering as a result of bad health could be demonstrated.

The figures shown here are patchy but they do not provide much evidence to suggest that the real value of government services in Britain and Germany has improved sufficiently to justify the increasing share of resources devoted to them. Germany might possibly be able to argue that its economic growth rate has been such that it now places a greater value on services than on goods, but even here it is difficult to see why this argument should not also apply to France whose growth rate and standard of living is comparable. Britain is certainly in no position to advance this argument.

The French and Italian figures are complicated by the practical exclusion of health service expenditure but its possible that France has reacted to the rising relative cost of government services by reducing the resources allocated to this function while Italy has been more successful than the other countries in controlling cost increases.

The health services are one sector in which increasing government expenditure, both in Britain and West Germany, may not be justified.

Rates of pay are the most important determining factor of the relative price of government services. After 1975 the price of British government services started to increase less than did the general rate of inflation. This was because of the incomes policy then in operation but could also have been caused by a realization that the services had become overpriced. More recently, however, the relative price has started to rise again as a result of public servants obtaining wage increases to restore the 1975 position.

The present Government has now declared that future wage increases will be curbed but this declaration has been justified on the grounds of economic difficulty, not of poor productivity. There is no reason to suppose, therefore, that relative prices will not start to increase again if prosperity returns.

What is needed is the preparation of more detailed output statistics, as recommended by the United Nations and the EEC*, for each department of government. These statistics would not only enable improvements in the quality or quantity of services to be estimated more precisely but they would also enable productivity to be monitored and commensurate wage increases awarded. In this way resources could be allocated more rationally than at present.

James Rothman

*Manual on National Accounts at Constant Prices, UN, 1974, Price and Volume Measures for Non-Market Services, Hill TP, Statistical Office of the European Communities, 1975.

Table I: The Government's share

	Percentage share of gdp spent on government services			
	Germany	UK	France	Italy
1960	13.5	16.5	14.1*	12.2
1965	15.3	16.8	13.9*	14.5
1970	15.9	17.7	13.5	12.7
1975	20.9	22.4	14.4	13.8
1977	20 0	20 8	14.9	13.7

* Adjusted to enable comparisons with subsequent years.
Source: Calculations based on UN National Accounts Statistics.

Table II: Relative price indices and government shares in quantitative terms

	Germany		UK		France		Italy	
	Relative price index	Govt Quant. share	Relative price index	Govt Quant. share	Relative price index	Govt Quant. share	Relative price index	Govt Quant. share
1960	92	16.2	95	21.8	90	16.7	81	15.0
1965	100	17.0	100	21.1	100	14.8	100	14.5
1970	111	15.9	109	20.3	107	13.4	100	12.7
1975	126	18.4	125	22.4	121	12 8	102	13.5
1977	127	17.6	120	21.7	124	12 9	105	13.1

Relative price index. Cost of government services relative to that of all goods and services (ratio between government consumption at current and constant prices, divided by gdp deflector and indexed to 100 in 1965.)
Govt quant share: Government expenditure at constant prices as a percentage of gdp at constant prices.
nb: Health service expenditure has risen as a percentage of gdp. If the French and Italian quantity shares had included health expenditure financed by transfers the downward would not have been so marked.
Source: Calculations based on UN National Accounts Statistics.

Table III: Has the increase in government output grown enough to explain the apparent increase in relative prices?

	Germany	UK	France	Italy
1975 index (1965=100) for:				
Students weighted by grade at 1975 prices	187.6	136.8	132.3	141.3
Hospital admissions (non-psychiatric)	131.9	114.8	155 8	143.7
Ratio to index for expenditure at constant prices x 100:				
Students	126	103 (89)*	94	97
Hospital admissions	88	87 (88)*	111	99
Relative price index	126	125	121	102

* Ratios to government educational and health expenditure at constant prices—corresponding figures for other countries not available.
Source: Calculations based on EEC statistics.

Table IV Health improvements between 1960 and 1973

	Reduction in mortalities per 1000 births			Additional years of life*	
	Perinatal	Infant	Maternal	Men	Women
Germany	13	13	61	0.4	2.0
UK	12	5	26	0.7	1.3
France	13	13	28	2.2	3.8
Italy	18	22	72	0.9	2.6

* Difference between expectation of life at one year old in 1963 and 1973.
Source: Calculations based on data in International Comparisons of Health Needs and Services by Robert Maxwell, King's Fund Centre, 1980.

Methods used to estimate government output and expenditure at constant prices

Germany: Volume of employment adjusted to allow for increases in productivity, also volume of purchases and depreciation.
UK: Volume of employment and purchases.
France: Education, a weighted index of students enrolled at various educational levels. Remainder from volume of employment, purchases, capital consumption and secondary sales.
Italy: Education, number of pupils graduated. Remainder from volume of employment, purchases and capital consumption.

Source: National Accounting Practices in 70 Countries, United Nations, 1979.
Volume implies either a direct measure of quantity suitably weighted, or expenditure deflated by a suitable price cost index.
In France and Italy government expenditure includes only a small proportion of expenditure on the health services.

Gossip from Brussels

Gaston's lot is not a happy one

"Roy may not have set the world on fire, but after a few months of Gaston we will all be begging him to come back" was the jaundiced prediction of one senior British official when Mr Roy Jenkins handed over to Mr Gaston Thorn as president of the European Commission at the start of the year.

Things have not yet come to that pass, but the Luxembourger's first two months in office have been far from happy. From the moment he set foot in the Berlaymont, the Commission's glass-and-steel headquarters in the heart of Brussels, little has seemed to go right.

First, there was the indecorous scramble for jobs in the new Commission. This quadrennial event is always a painful exposure of the hypocrisy of the Commission's pretensions to be an Olympian college far above the crude interplay of national interests which motivate ordinary politicians. But the pretence looked especially thin on this occasion.

Admittedly, Mr Thorn had his work cut out. There have always been fewer worthwhile jobs in the Commission than applicants, whose number was this year increased from 12 to 13 (not counting Mr Thorn himself) by the arrival of Mr George Kontogeorgis, the new Greek Commissioner. He is a spry 68-year-old (rumoured actually to be in his early seventies) from the island of Tinos in the Aegean.

Mr Thorn's task was made still harder because an "old guard" of eight incumbent Commissioners, led by the formidable Belgian, Vicomte Etienne Davignon, already held most of the best portfolios and had made clear they had every intention of hanging on to them.

Indeed, Vicomte Davignon, in a remarkable feat of daylight piracy, grabbed both the energy and scientific research portfolios to add to his existing industrial responsibility, even before the negotiations proper on job distribution had begun.

Last year Vicomte Davignon was on the short list of candidates to succeed Mr Jenkins as president, and at one time had seemed more likely to do so than Mr Thorn. As a result, Mr Thorn was under some pressure to soothe the Belgian's thwarted ambition with a generous consolation prize.

It was against this background that there occurred what has come to be known as the "Tugendhat affair". It had all the ingredients of the best Brussels disputes: cloak-and-dagger work in the corridors, malicious "leaks" to the press by interested parties, and a personal telephone call from Mrs Thatcher fulminating about "insults" to Britain.

Very much the junior British Commissioner when he first came to Brussels in 1977, Mr Christopher Tugendhat had been grateful to accept the second-rank budget portfolio. Two years later, to his own and most other people's surprise, he found himself juggling with one of the hottest political potatoes in the Commission.

This was brought about by Britain's dispute with its EEC partners over the size of its budget contributions. Last May's temporary settlement reinforced the Commission's role by bequeathing to it the task of producing proposals this summer for a permanent reform of the EEC's finances that would prevent such disputes arising in future.

As Budget Commissioner, with four years' experience behind him and elevation to one of the Commission's five vice-presidencies in prospect, Mr Tugendhat was thus looking forward to playing the central role, second only to that of the president himself, in the preparation of these crucial proposals.

To his horror Mr Tugendhat discovered that Mr Thorn was proposing to delegate some of the coordination of work on the budget reforms—a necessary function given that a number of different spending departments would be involved—to Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the likable, if ambitious, new Irish Commissioner.

Was this, as some in Mr Tugendhat's entourage tended to suspect, a sinister plot to weaken British influence over budgetary policy? Or was it merely, as many observers thought, an attempt to give Mr O'Kennedy, a fine-sounding title to disguise what was in reality pretty much of a non-job?

The finally agreed definition of Mr O'Kennedy's job certainly did not appear much of a threat to Mr Tugendhat. He chairs the group of Commissioners working on budgetary reform on behalf of Mr Thorn, when the latter is otherwise occupied, and provides liaison between the different departments involved. But he has no overlord role.

In practice, Mr O'Kennedy, as personnel manager (also part of his portfolio), has spent most of his time so far trying to mediate in the dispute over pay and conditions between the staff of the EEC institutions and member states. This is likely to occupy him for at least a further month, so his budgetary role may not be put to the test for some time.

Scarcely had the dust settled on the Tugendhat episode when the untimely death of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the highly respected Dane who had been in charge of agricultural policy for the past four years, threatened to reopen the debate over job allocation.

Partly to avoid this, Mr Thorn and his colleagues decided, despite some misgivings, to give Mr Gundelach's job to his compatriot, Mr Poul Dalsager. As a long-running Danish Minister of Agriculture, Mr Dalsager was technically well qualified, but many had doubts about his ability. His lack of any language but Danish was also counted a disadvantage.

Mr Thorn's troubles were still not at an end. His own personally appointed "chef de cabinet", Mr Adrien Ries, a fellow Luxembourger and seasoned Commission official, resigned after only a few weeks in the job, allegedly after a nervous collapse brought on by a dispute with his superior.

In a widely applauded appointment, Mr Thorn quickly filled this unexpected vacancy with Mr Fernand Spaak, son of the late Paul-Henri Spaak, the distinguished Belgian Socialist and one of the founding fathers of the EEC.

Mr Thorn was looking in better shape when he appeared before the European Parliament last month to make the traditional report of an incoming president. Unfortunately, his thunder was diminished by the appearance of President Sadat the previous day, and the failure of the Commission's printers to produce texts of his speech on time.

What he said to the Parliament caused a stir. Mr Thorn appeared to be calling for bold moves towards political and economic union by 1984. On closer examination, however, his speech looked much less dramatic. One sympathetic Thorn watcher remarked: "The trouble is that Gaston tends to get carried away by his own verbosity."

Michael Hornsby

Multinationals are reluctant sponsors

Museum of the Year awards' future threatened

On March 23, 1981, Mme Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, the guest of honour at a gathering of scholars from museums all over Europe, will present the fourth series of European Museum of the Year awards at the Guildhall in the City of London.

The reception, with 400 guests, will be hosted jointly by IBM (sponsors of this event since 1977) and Times Newspapers. Yet there will be a cloud over it. The money to continue this initiative in 1981 is not yet secured. Indeed, its continuance is threatened exactly at the moment when it is taking root as one of the few truly European cultural initiatives which have succeeded in practical terms, and can be shown to be working.

On a national scale, we have become accustomed to the role of the industrial sponsor, and indeed in most countries it is welcomed and encouraged. But the European Museum Trust faces some special problems. It was started with a grant from the European Cultural Foundation. IBM Europe then took the responsibility to run it for three years until a wider financial base could be found. In the fourth year, it seemed that a new and highly-suitable sponsor had been found in Times Newspapers but recent events leave a large question mark over such sponsorship.

The problem is that while national responsibility for the support of such ventures is widely recognized, multinational companies have proved far more reluctant to face up to the same calls on the corporate conscience in any truly European sense. Yet, some may wonder, if this kind of appeal goes unanswered, will that not be a sad indication of the unreality and impermanence of the European idea itself? Where a modest sum—an annual $60,000—could do so much to reconcile a doubting public to the true potential within the individual countries of the multinational firm as a base for enriching the community, an answer must surely be found.

The concept of enlightened sponsorship of this type is difficult enough to promote in large corporate structures. It may prove easier in wealthy firms which are still controlled by one man with a strong interest in museums and the arts. What exactly would such a sponsor be backing?

The winning museums, to be honoured on March 23, have been chosen by an international committee—a Swede, a Belgian, a Frenchman, a German, and two Englishmen, with a former director-general of Unesco in the chair. During the past four years, this hard-working and much-travelled committee has visited more than 100 new museums in connexion with the main award alone, from the far north of Norway and Finland to Cyprus and Malta, and from the west of Ireland to the south of Portugal. It has met museum directors and their colleagues, talked to designers, civil servants and politicians, and received innumerable confidences.

Its favours have been spread widely. Previous winners of the striking Henry Moore trophy, which goes on display at the European Museum of the Year for one year, have included Britain's Ironbridge Gorge Museum; the Schloss Rheydt Museum at Mönchengladbach; and the Musée Camarguais near Arles in France. All have reported similar side-effects of the awards on their own museums. Attendances doubled, or more than doubled; and there was a marked rise in staff morale and local prestige. As the director of the winning German museum in 1978 put it: "The museum remained exactly the same, but overnight its merits had mysteriously increased enormously."

This year's winner has been chosen from an equally impressive group of projects, which include national museums and local museums; museums of well-worn disciplines such as art, history, and natural science; and pioneering subjects such as the history of Christianity and a museum of posts and telegraphs. No doubt the award will have the same marked effect on the winner which has been noted above. But in 1981 there may be no winner at all: only a loser, the wider cultural community of Europe, and, in a small way, the idea of Europe itself. That is unless some enlightened sponsor agrees to come to the rescue at the last minute.

John Letts
chairman,
National Heritage

Man who once saw coordinating Community policy as 'impossible'

Now Signor Scotti has overcome his own acute crisis

In Italy, coordinating Community policy is no longer "impossible", as the Italian Minister for Europe, Signor Enzo Scotti, described it last Christmas, when he threatened to give up and leave a government where "at one desk the Minister for Agriculture decided something, and at another the Minister for the Budget cancelled it".

Today, Signor Scotti, aged 47 and a brilliant, intelligent Neapolitan and Christian Democrat who is close to Signor Andreotti but, at the same time, a personal friend of Signor Forlani, is no longer something unique in Italy—a minister who wants to resign because he is not allowed to do his work properly.

The Minister for Europe (a post that was instituted to coordinate Community policy) has overcome his own acute crisis, the condition of the chronic invalid that threatened to turn him into a "bureaucratic sarcophagus", mummified and useless, shut away in a corner among the most bewildered members of the President's entourage.

Signor Scotti has not yet won his war against the ministers' departments, against centralizing bureaucracy, against those "apparatuses", even in Parliament, that have an almost nineteenth-century idea of the state and international relations so that they keep the "flow of information, that is essential to the work of coordinating Community policy, locked jealously away in their drawers".

He has won many battles, however, the most important of all being the fundamental one for "power of attorney", in respect of relations with the Community, from the President and several ministers.

"The thing that still isn't working properly", the minister told me between one burst of telephone calls and another—first Signor Forlani, then his colleagues Signor Reviglio (Finance) and Signor Pandolfi (Industry), and finally the trade union leader, Signor Pierre Carniti, leader of the CISL—"is the relationship between government and parliament where Europe is concerned. It is very thin: worse still, it doesn't exist."

Was it that the members of the Italian Parliament did not give a straw for Europe's problems? "There is a kind of parliamentary strong arm clamped down on the material necessary for applying Community directives", the minister says. "Obstacles are placed in the way, so that the Community's laws cannot be carried out. Hence the indifference of public opinion in Italy, where European questions are concerned."

After having solved other problems, how did he propose to get over this one? "By fighting in Parliament to make members realize the position; by promoting a sort of debate in advance on such questions as, for example, the Community budget. It is important, if not indispensable, for an Italian negotiator to have Parliament's agreement on these delicate questions."

What battles did he have to fight, in order to get his ministry off the ground? "The first—over which, moreover, I had a very hard discussion with Forlani, who got a bit annoyed—was to define the powers that the President had to delegate to all."

Asked whether he was a minister without any powers, he replied: "As a minister without portfolio, I have no responsibility of my own. I exercise only responsibilities delegated to me by the President. The President has power to direct and coordinate the Government's action. All the argument about the powers of the Minister for Europe, which stirred up the resistance of many departments, is false.

"It is not a matter of setting up a new department alongside the others. That would not solve the problem, which exists in every country in the Community, of coordinating our position. It is a matter of excercising the powers of the President. That is why I put the question in terms of the delegation of powers, and the reorganization of the President's office. This question of Community policy is one of the most important aspects of the political coordination of the President."

Signor Scotti has won his battles by convincing the ministerial departments that it was not his intention "to take anything away from anybody, but simply to ask the departments to do their work on the basis of internally agreed policy. There is a question of interdependence between one decision and another. All decisions reciprocally influence one other."

The minister confirms that there was resistance in the individual ministries to the idea of just getting on with the job for which each is responsible, without coming to blows with the others, and so reaching a common point of view. "But, in the end, the majority became convinced, thanks partly to the experience of other countries, on which we want to model our experience here.

"I do not want a full-blooded ministry of European affairs, which would be a mistake, since European policy is an integral part of internal policy. Instead, we have to bring about a single government line on this subject, without splinter groups and areas of resistance."

The work has begun. Now there are new problems, extending from general questions of organization to increasing the flow of information. "As soon as things are going smoothly in these fields too, I can leave quietly, without fuss, my mind at rest. My work will be done. Someone else can carry on in my place."

Luca Guirato

On the contrary

Jeux sans frontières

Et maintenant, à vous, Guy Lux !

Bien. Voilà, les dix concurrents sont prêts et ça commence ! Ils doivent d'abord essayer de traire la vache mécanique sans toutefois faire déborder le seau, sous peine de perdre des points et payer une prime de co-responsabilité . . . Oh là là ! Attention ! Ca coule à flots ! Faut faire mieux que ça, voyons !

Ensuite, c'est le jeu des équilibristes (budgétaires s'entend). Il faut bander les yeux, ramasser cent mille balles, traverser l'échiquier géant, et revenir indemne, tout en se balançant du juste retour. Personne n'y a réussi jusqu'ici, mais il reste beaucoup à gagner.

Juste avant l'entr'acte, l'ensemble des équipes nationales va essayer le jeu de la TVA (traduisez : tout va augmenter). Voici comment cela se joue. On va rassembler tous les concurrents dans cette grande maison qui est une espèce de pressoir, avec des poids lourds—Français, Anglais, Allemands—sur le toit. Pour en sortir, sans autres ressources propres, l'ensemble des équipes doit essayer de soulever le plafond, fixé actuellement au niveau de . . . oui, un pour cent.

En fin de programme, on va voir si les dix concurrents seront capables de jouer ensemble aux diplomates et, la cas échéant, aux soldats. A en juger par leurs performances jusqu'à maintenant, je ne leur donne pas de grandes chances.

Pangloss

Facts and figures

Prospect of full-scale trade war looms

International economics are dominated by the strikingly contrasting performances of the dollar and the Deutsche mark. More worrying, however, although less dramatic, is another wider but more deeply-seated development, which is forcing governments into taking increasingly direct action on their imports and exports. In the overall depression, foreign trade is becoming the only lever they can use to circumscribe the recession and slow the rise in unemployment, which is reaching peaks unknown since the great depression of the 1930s.

Hence the increasingly pronounced contrasts among the four *Europa* countries, which are on the defensive, and the inevitability of a full-scale trade war, with governments coming to the rescue of their home industries, using the full arsenal of resources devised and developed over the years.

The most catastrophic situation is still that in Italy, whose trade deficit increased fourfold between 1979 and 1980. The Government, short of taking action aimed at a real improvement in competitiveness, has approved direct measures to make available almost 10,000,000m lire to provide Italian exporters with cheap credit. As well as an improvement in the trade balance, it is looking for a 3 per cent contribution to growth in the gnp and the creation of 380,000 extra jobs.

The scheme is impressive, but what are its chances of success? There is no lack of pitfalls. In monetary terms, how is it possible to reconcile this boost given by Signor Enrico Manca, the Minister for Foreign Trade, with the application of the brakes by Signor Nino Andreatta, the Minister for the Treasury, who is aiming to back his efforts to counter inflation by imposing strict limits on credit growth, which he intends to keep within 12 per cent (whereas the inflation rate is above 20 per cent). Not surprisingly, this strategy has caused a certain amount of vacillation in the Italian Government.

The most worrying aspect, however, is the extent to which international limitations can compromise such a course of action since, if each country is hoping to derive maximum benefit from a putative improvement in conditions in neighbouring countries while holding out at home, the chances of success are far from certain. What is worse, such a strategy could backfire if there is a sharp fall in trade, as was seen during the slump in the 1930s. Nevertheless, these dangers do not seem to have been appreciated and a general movement along these lines is under way.

France is very much part of it, expecially since it is handicapped by the effect of the strong dollar on its import costs and the weakness of the Deutsche mark, compounding the recession in West Germany, its largest export market. Moreover, the pre-election climate is having a considerable influence on decision-making. Unions and employers are uniting in increasingly vociferous protests at the carnage of job losses and company bankruptcies.

This outcry is making little impression on M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, who has eyes only for the monetary scene and quite recently expressed satisfaction at the firmness of the franc. But it is worrying the other members of the Government, who are concerned about the unemployment situation, particularly in highly localized industries such as textiles. Motor manufacturing, a "flagship" industry and until only a few months ago the biggest potential creator of jobs for less-favoured regions, is now giving the greatest cause for concern, hence the recourse to administrative methods of confining Japanese market penetration to 3 per cent. The real threat, however, is not so much to the domestic market as to exports.

This strategy, therefore, can succeed only if it is coordinated with other partners, the most important of these being West Germany, in order to parry the thrust of the Japanese offensive. It was cooperation of this type that President Giscard d'Estaing was seeking at his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on February 5 and 6. It was followed by a glowing communique, but no decisions. This may be a little surprising, since the West Germans, too, are in disarray. As a recent survey by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* shows, their exporters are pessimistic about 1981.

The world economic outlook has deteriorated but, as has been pointed out by Herr Wolf von Amerongen, chairman of the DIHT (federation of chambers of commerce), competition is also becoming keener; American competition in particular is beginning to be a really serious threat to West Germany's traditional markets. Moreover, the extraordinary new situation, with the Deutsche mark under threat, has shaken West German belief in the virtues of a strong currency.

Although the West Germans resisted the protectionist blandishments from France at the last Franco-German summit, there are now signs of a change in thinking. The Hamburg institute, HWWA, has pointed to the potentially beneficial effect on exports of the weakness of the Deutsche mark and another institute, the DIW in West Berlin, has gone so far as to propose withdrawal from the European monetary system.

Britain alone remains confident in the virtues of rediscovered liberalism in the conduct of its external as well as internal affairs. It is in an extraordinary situation, not dissimilar to conditions in the Opec countries, with a contrast between financial strength and economic weakness. Its trade balance is running at a surplus, so that one problem has been removed.

But in Britain, too, employers and unions are up in arms in protest about bankruptcies and soaring unemployment respectively, and they are both putting forward plans for recovery as the Budget approaches. Will Mrs Thatcher be influenced by the plan proposed by Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, which calls for action to bring down the exchange rate of the pound from its present high level, which is severely handicapping British exporters?

The Treasury has recently acknowledged that the fall in business activity during the final quarter last year was twice as bad as the authorities had expected and that much of the blame for this is attributable to the underlying trade imbalance masked by the swelling tide of oil exports. Rather than wage a trade war, the British negotiate. They have a gentlemen's agreement with the Japanese under which the Japanese limit their penetration of the car market to 11 per cent while at the same time receiving favourable treatment of their establishment of plants in Britain.

The recent agreement with Nissan, with the threat represented by this new Japanese bridgehead, came as a shock to partners in the European Community. As has been pointed out with great realism by the head of this firm, Mr Takashi Ishihara, it remains to be seen whether it will be possible to get the British to adopt Japanese working methods and change their style of industrial relations.

The Japanese are therefore persisting with an offensive which would do credit to any military strategist. It is based on pincer movements directed at selected industries and it is mesmerizing the governments of the four *Europa* countries. However, as Herr Wolf von Amerongen has pointed out, the Americans are also moving on to the offensive. They are switching from investment abroad to exporting, bringing a slowing down in the deterioration of their trade balance, while at the same time the balance on invisibles is reaping the benefits of past investment, so that the current account balance of payments moved back into surplus in 1980.

If the world is to avoid a trade war which would harm the interests of all concerned in the end, much depends on the Americans, and a particularly important role falls to Mr William Brock, the new White House special representative for foreign trade. He has made clear that the voluntarist style of President Reagan's team could be extended to foreign trade, announcing his intention to pursue "a tough and aggressive policy" and stating that it was necessary "to be very firm with the Japanese".

He also issued a warning to Europe, expressing irritation at the manoeuvres of the French in particular who, he says, are skilful at diverting the flood of Japanese car exports. Time will tell how Mr Brock fares in putting his ideas into practice. Will rediscovered American liberalism be confined to the domestic scene or will it be extended to external affairs?

Maurice Bommensath
economist with Cegos, management consultants. Paris

excellent ●●● good ●● fairly good ● poor ○ bad ○○ very bad ○○○ previous performance [ ]

	rate of growth	quality of growth: prices	quality of growth: unemployment	maintenance of growth: productive capacity	maintenance of growth: foreign trade	maintenance of growth: vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	○○ [○]	○ [●]	○ [○]	○ [○]	● [●]	○○ [○]
FRANCE	○○ [○○]	○○ [○○]	○○ [○○]	○ [○]	○○ [○○]	● [●]
ITALY	○○ [○○]	○○○ [○○○]	○○ [○○]	○○ [○○]	○○ [○○]	○ [○]
BRITAIN	○○○ [○○○]	○ [○]	○○○ [○○○]	○○○ [○○○]	●● [●]	●● [●●]

United States: strong economic activity

Growth rate: the signs continue to point to strong economic activity rather than to any slowing down. December saw increases in industry's orders (1.9 per cent) and orders for durable goods (1.9 per cent); in January retail sales rose by 2 per cent and industrial output by 0.6 per cent.
Prices: there has been no let-up in inflation which, on the basis of the last three months of 1980, is running at a rate of over 13 per cent.
Unemployment: the unemployment rate, calculated as a proportion of the working population and seasonally adjusted, was unchanged between December and January at 7.4 per cent. However, the absolute figure for the number in employment has risen by 410,000.
Foreign trade: the trade deficit, calculated fob/cif, increased sharply from $1,660m in November to $2,980m in December; oil imports were up 22 per cent by volume and 25 per cent in value terms.
Monetary and financial influence: although there has been a further slight fall in prime rates to 19 per cent, there can be no real relaxation until significant progress has been made in reducing inflation and the budget deficit.

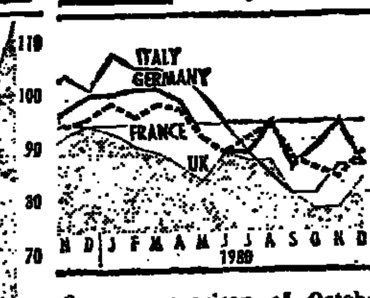
Japan: industrial output on upward trend

Growth rate: industrial output seems to be on an upward trend, the December 1980 figure having been 3 per cent higher than that for December 1979 (compared with a 1.9 per cent increase in November).
Prices: inflation stabilized over the last three months at an annual rate of 3 per cent; calculated over 12 months, the rate is down from 8.5 per cent to 7 per cent.
Unemployment: the unemployment rate, calculated as a proportion of the working population and seasonally adjusted, fell from 2.3 per cent in November to 2.22 per cent in December (the Japanese rate is underestimated in comparison with the American and European rates).
Foreign trade: the trade balance recovered well in 1980, which ended with a surplus of $2,100m. The year 1981 began with a further surplus of $470m in January, but a deficit of $1,400m before seasonal adjustment.

PRICES

Between December and January the average inflation rate for the four Europa countries rose from 11.6 per cent to 12.7 per cent, the main cause for this further acceleration being the rise from 5.5 per cent to more than 8 per cent in West Germany. There were also increases in France (from 11 per cent to 12 per cent) and Italy (from 22 per cent to 23 per cent), but no change in Britain (8 per cent). These rates are based on the past three months. On the year-on-year reckoning the figures are 5.8 per cent for West Germany, 12.8 per cent for France, 13 per cent for Britain and 21 per cent for Italy.

FOREIGN TRADE



Between November and December cover of imports by exports (calculated fob/cif and seasonally adjusted) remained at 103 per cent in West Germany and improved slightly in Italy, from 80 per cent to 82 per cent. Between December and January the British rate shot up from 102 per cent to 114 per cent and France suffered a fall from 87 per cent to 84 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

On a comparison of October, November and December with the previous quarter, industrial output continued to fall in West Germany (−6 per cent), Italy (−6 per cent), France (−4 per cent) and Britain (−8 per cent).

UNEMPLOYMENT

Between December and January the unemployment rate expressed as a proportion of the working population and seasonally adjusted, continued its steep rise in Britain, from 8.75 per cent to 9.2 per cent and also advanced appreciably in France from 7.05 per cent to 7.25 per cent. There was no change in the West German rate (4.55 per cent), although the unadjusted figure increased from 4.8 per cent to 5.6 per cent.

'Black' economy

Moonlighting an indicator of hyperdevelopment

The black economy is growing steadily in the industrialized countries. Undeclared employment is on the increase, apparently independently of economic conditions. It is an escape valve used, according to International Labour Organization estimates, by between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of workers in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries to circumvent the ever greater fiscal, social and technical constraints imposed in societies which are becoming increasingly "organized".

There has been much comment on the extent of moonlighting and the black economy in Italy, but these phenomena are now just as widespread in countries like West Germany and the United States, not to mention France and Britain. Their presence has long been considered as an indicator of under-development, but it is perhaps becoming the opposite: an indicator of hyperdevelopment and the imperceptible medium of a transition from the industrial society to the post-industrial phase. It is this that explains the different attitudes to this phenomenon adopted by governments.

According to a survey carried out by the Bielefeld opinion research organization in West Germany there are almost two million workers in the black economy and 8 per cent of employees have a second job. These people are thought to account for 2 per cent of the West German gnp and undeclared income is believed to have increased five times in as many years. An article published last June in *Intersocial** suggests that these *Schwarzarbeiter* are "robbing" the tax and social security authorities of some Dm10,000m a year, or three times the annual budget of the Federal Ministry of Finance.

According to trade association estimates, in the building industry 70 per cent of carcass work and 90 per cent of painting is done on the lump; business lost by garages includes more than two million brake changes and replacement of shock absorbers and exhaust systems on four million vehicles; and up to 80 per cent of building plans are prepared not by independent architects, but by members of the public service working in their spare time (the best way of making sure that plans meet with approval).

In comparison, France, which like Belgium has mounted the most determined campaign against undeclared employment, is thought to have only between 800,000 and one million workers in the black economy, although according to a SOFRES survey, "only 22 per cent of French people are resolutely opposed to black employment". The motor manufacturers' trade association estimates that the turnover of the alternative economy is comparable to that of its own industry, at about 90,000m francs.

The insurance documentation and information centre puts the figure at about half as much, calculating that this means losses of social security and unemployment benefit contributions totalling 18,000m francs, while the fiscal authorities would be losing 6,000m francs on value-added tax alone. According to other estimates, illicit cash-in-hand payments to workers in France amounts to 10,000m francs, or 3 per cent of official salaries and wages.

"We do not consider it desirable to suppress all forms of marginal work. Marginal employment acts as a valve, it proves that the social system reacts against the inflexibilities which it imposes upon itself." Thus the authors of the report by the Commission of the European Communities on "the marginal and clandestine labour market in France, the United Kingdom and Italy".†

They point out that "the second job, which is generally illegally combined with the main job, is often a type of work which would not be offered or would not be accepted. Ususually it is part-time, offers wages which are adequate only as a supplement to the main income, and the worker is likely to be treated as self-employed rather than employed. Most important, 80 per cent of such jobs are in service industries, whereas it is in productive industry that job creation is required."

In West Germany the craft industries trade association claims, on the basis of a rough calculation, that if all the work done in the black economy were placed with craft businesses, 375,000 jobs would be created, but more realistic estimates which take account of the fall in demand and the lack of skilled labour put the figure at between 100,000 and 200000, which would mean a

net loss of employment. Campaigning against undeclared employment with the aim of reducing unemployment should therefore be approached with caution.

On the one hand, trade unions like the CFDT in France are right to emphasize the distinction between "clandestine work" and "connival work" to damp the ardour of those whose version of a more informal economy is so uncompromising that it could lead to a reduction in the safeguards enjoyed by workers as a whole. On the other hand, union leaders like those of the SGIL in Italy are displaying realism when they seek to include all forms of employment in their plan of action; this explains the conclusion of a national collective agreement on home work, whose status they are seeking to regularize in order to distinguish it from clandestine work.

In Italy where there are between three million and five million workers in the black economy, undeclared employment plays an extraordinary role as an economic regulator. Government statisticians believe that fewer than 80 per cent of the true gross national product is reflected by the official figures. Almost 30 per cent of exports, which struggle to balance the country's heavy imports (of energy products in particular), are made in areas where the black economy thrives. For instance, in Prato in Tuscany, 8,650 small businesses out of 9,605 use undeclared labour. Throughout the country there has been a large increase in small firms which declare four or five employees and have an effective workforce of possibly 50.

In Britain, despite appeals from many experts convinced that the underground economy will continue to grow if nothing is done to stop it, the Conservative Government has not decided to take effective action against undeclared employment. The official statistics estimate the number of undeclared workers at between two million and three million. The Inland Revenue has calculated that, in the tax year 1978-79, undeclared income which escaped tax amounted to about £11,000m, or 7.5 per cent of gnp.

Between 1972 and 1978 the number of £10 and £20 notes (the most practical denominations for cash payments) in circulation rose by 470 per cent, which was four times as fast as the overall monetary growth rate. The British black economy relies primarily on unofficial moonlighting by people with declared occupations.

In Western Europe this phenomenon has not yet reached a scale comparable with what can be found in Poland, for instance, where it is not always clear whether the official market or the black market predominates, when tomatoes are sold at double the price shown in shop displays, when new flats are delivered in such a poor state that it is routine to have to call in workmen after normal hours to put in doors, windows and baths which work properly.†† But all societies have their ways of defending themselves against financial and bureaucratic constraints.

In the United States it is estimated that 15 million to 2 million people fail to declare income of several hundred billion dollars, including 4,500,000 who live entirely on earnings from unofficial jobs. According to Internal Revenue estimates, the underground economy represents between 5.9 per cent and 7.9 per cent of the gross national product.

Recently, the United States has seen a return to the barter economy on an unprecedented scale. "A lawyer may receive an antique in payment for his services or a printer may take a free supply of drink in return for printing brochures promoting some liqueur", we learn from an article in *Intersocial*.

"Elsewhere, medical treatment or legal advice on a divorce may be bartered against work on a car, ranging from small repairs to a full service. In 1978 there were already about 1,000 barter cooperatives in the United States, with memberships ranging from 500 to 10,000. In Los Angeles a specialist weekly, *Barter*, has more than 10,000 subscribers. Even more extraordinary is the record of a New York company which in 1978 arranged transfers of goods worth some £5m among 100 or so companies which had stocks to swap among themselves.

In most countries clandestine work and parallel economies are seen increasingly as more than opportunities for workers to escape social and fiscal pressures which are often bitterly resented at rank-and-file level. They are also seen as a means of furthering their aspirations for greater independence. Even in France, where the administrative system makes for centralization and authoritarianism, the recent report on this topic by M Robert Delorozoy recommends that there should be constructive measures which take clandestine workers' motives into consideration as well as preventive action.

In this he agrees with the conclusions of the EEC experts: "Constructive measures should accompany preventive action aimed against use of clandestine workers. These, combined with measures aimed at promoting small craft businesses, so that they can be profitable, without having to increase prices, could be more beneficial than indiscriminate hunting of all forms of illicit employment".

However, it has to be acknowledged that the emergent dual or pluralist economies are becoming increasingly difficult to manage with central institutions, whose grasp they are tending increasingly to escape. There are about 20 million unemployed in the OECD countries, and probably 16 million unregistered workers.

Jacqueline Grapin

**Intersocial No 61, June 1980.*
†*Commission of the European Communities:* Le Travail marginal et clandestin en France, au Royaune Uni et en Italie, *Study no.* 79/42.
†† Problèmes politiques et sociaux number 400, l'économie souterreaine, *published by Documentation Française, October* 24, 1980.

Rising stars

An empire built on cocoa substitute

This is the story of an industrial empire founded in 1946, as the result of an idea that today is worth about 700,000m lire a year (in 1979 turnover was 642,000m lire). It is the story of the Ferrero sweets empire, a family story of three or four people who, without banks or help of any kind, succeeded by intuition and entrepreneurial skill.

The story starts with Pietro Ferrero who had an ordinary pastry shop in Via Rattazzi, in Alba, a large agricultural town in Piedmont. The war had only just ended and it was a mystery how pastry shops kept going; cocoa was almost unobtainable and chocolate was a high price. Ferrero racked his brains for a product to replace it.

Whole months went by devoted to research, blending cocoa butter, sugar and walnuts, and the judge of each new blend was Pietro's wife, Piera. Each time she would taste each new result, think about it, and say: "No, we are not there yet". Her husband would go back to the laboratory, start again, varying the amounts of the different ingredients, until finally, at the beginning of 1946, Piera said decisively, "Yes!"

They called that walnut-flavoured chocolate Pasta Gianduia. It cost 600 lire a kilo, against 2,500 to 3,000 lire for cocoa chocolate, which was rare. In February, 1946, the first 300 kg of Gianduia were sent out of the shop in Via Rattazzi, and in December the same year, the output was 100,000 kg. Orders were flowing in from all over Italy. Indeed, "orders" was hardly the word—"supplications" is what they really were, as customers from all over Italy begged for deliveries, urgently, and in ever-increasing quantities.

In the meantime, the small factory moved from Via Rattazzi to Via Vivaro. Tra I Pioppi, which is still the head office, though it has increased enormously in size. From the five or six employees who worked in the factory at the beginning, the number had now risen to about 100, and there were never enough of them (three years later there were 1,000).

"Machines, that's what we need", Pietro Ferrero said. But none was to be had, so he invented some himself, for mixing the paste and packing, while all the time creating new products such as Supercrema, the forerunner of Nutella. Sometimes he even came out of his laboratory and called a few of his employees to give a hand with the pick-axe, to knock a wall down and enlarge the factory.

Now another person came into the picture, much to the firm's good fortune: Giovanni Ferrero, Pietro's brother. He was the organizer, the forerunner of the more efficient sales organizations. He was a man who had no need of secretaries or files. He simply said "It's all written up here", pointing to his head. He was a man who did all his accounts, running into thousands of millions of lire, on cigarette packets.

It was his idea to cut out the wholesalers and sell to retailers direct, supplying them with his own delivery vans. There were 12 Ferrero vans in 1947. In 1966 there were 2,000. The number rose to 2,500, with only the Italian Army having a larger vehicle fleet.

The Ferrero brothers both died when they were 50—Pietro in 1949 and Giovanni in 1957—as the result of heart attacks. Control of the firm passed to Michele, Pietro's only son, who had both his father's qualities (imagination, always seeking to create new products and new machines) and those of his uncle Giovanni (intuition and sales flair).

A young man was now in charge of the firm, working with his mother, Signora Piera Ferrero died last December. She was chairman of the board of directors of the most powerful sweet-making firm in the EEC; with little in the way of formal schooling, she was extraordinarily able. She used to say "You don't need to know a great deal about economics—common sense is sufficient".

In Michele's hands, the firm took the biggest step of all. Ferrero, with 300,000 sales outlets, had solid foundations in Italy. There was, however, a limit to what Italy could give, and so Michele looked abroad. A European venture was an exciting thought, and in 1956 he set up a factory in Allendorf, in Germany.

It was a daring act, something of a challenge, for where chocolate is concerned Germany is one of the leaders, with 120 firms in competition. Michele knew that to succeed he had to have a quality product that was original. "It's not use trying to break into a market with a product that people know already. We have to have something new." And so, he created Mon Cheri.

After the German company, now called Ferrero OMG, in 1960 he founded a French Ferrero—originally called Dulcea—another in Belgium and another in Britain. Bit by bit he carried on the process in other countries (the last to be formed was Ferrero Japan) and organized distributors throughout the world. Other factories were also set up in Italy. The head offices for administration, publicity and the scientific laboratories are at Pino, on the hills just outside Turin. At the end of last December, Ferrero became a holding company.

Michele Ferrero continues to invent new products, such as Tic Tac and Duplo, and many others. He says that Ferrero is now in its third state of development. The first stage was the chocolate substitute Gianduia, the second was his entry into the German market, and the third is to sell sweets as a food product, or a sweet food. In other words, products which should be not only sweets but also nutritious foods—which brings us to the Kinder range, and the breakfast products, and so on.

Michele Ferrero, who is 55, has two children, both boys. When they were born he took them into the factory to show them to all his employees—production workers and office staff alike. "I thought it was right to introduce my successors to my employees".

Luciano Curino

EUROPA
Editorial Committee:
Pierre Drouin, Jacqueline Grapin, *Le Monde;*
Piero de Garzarolli, Mario Fasanotti, *La Stampa;*
John Greig, David Spanier, *The Times;*
Ingeborg Schawohl, Walter Spiegel, *Die Welt.*
Executive Editor:
Jacqueline Grapin.
Commercial:
Yves Morvan, *Le Monde;*
Dante Secchia, *La Stampa;*
Eric Wolfensohn, *The Times;*
Dietrich Windberg, *Die Welt.*
Commercial Coordinator:
Eric Wolfensohn.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES
P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NO SAFETY IN INSTABILITY

Today's defence debate will not be only about Trident and Polaris. It will give the Commons an opportunity to grapple with the whole tangle of arguments which now envelop the subject of Britain's defences. The arguments are not new but they have recently become more earnest and politically divisive than for many years. The split in the Labour Party is one symptom of stress. The reemergence of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is another. The Government is right to feel that the subject must be confronted publicly and head on. To dismiss the questioning of established policy as the work of a small political minority is to misjudge the public mood. Many people who do not support the unilateralists are sufficiently worried to want open debate. The choice of Britain's next generation of nuclear missiles is not strictly part of this debate because it is largely a technical and financial issue, but it has brought the broader issues into the open.

Negotiating limits on arms race

The conventional wisdom with which we have lived since the start of the nuclear age is that nuclear weapons—if they can be kept in the hands of reasonably civilized governments—tend to lessen rather than increase the danger of war because they raise the costs to unacceptable heights. Confidence in this assumption is now diminishing for two main reasons. First, these civilized governments have been unable to negotiate effective limits on the arms race. They continue to pour huge sums of money into increasing their arsenals, each claiming to be catching up with the other. This not only wastes money which could be better spent but increases the danger of war by perpetuating instability and aggravating mutual fear and distrust. Moreover, their political relations are worsening.

Secondly, the latest nuclear weapons are so accurate that it begins to become possible to think of knocking out most of an opponent's weapons at one blow, leaving him with the choice between surrendering or suffering total destruction of his cities. In theory the Soviet Union will have this capacity over the next few years and the West will have it in the second half of the decade if present programmes continue. On paper it seems to make nuclear war thinkable again, thereby weakening the argument that the balance of terror is the best guarantee of peace. Certainly Soviet experts write with chilling calmness about fighting and winning a nuclear war.

Anxiety is therefore widespread and justified but it produces different responses. On the fringes of the unilateralist movement there are a few true believers in Soviet communism. With them the argument is not about nuclear weapons but the nature of the Soviet system. Similarly there are some consistent pacifists with whom the argument is not about nuclear weapons but about the use of force. The broad warm heart of the movement is more difficult to get to grips with because it brings together several overlapping schools of thought. Some want Britain to rely on the protection of the Americans. Some believe conventional weapons could provide sufficient deterrence. Some believe Britain should opt out of the alliance altogether.

Many, however, are driven by a simple conviction that anything is better than the horror of nuclear war. In other words, better red than dead, if those are the alternatives. This can be an honest position if the implications are squarely faced. Traditionally it has been regarded as right to prefer death to dishonour, but the choice may no longer be personal or even national. Is one justified in trying to save one's own honour, or one's own political system, when doing so might destroy millions? This is a moral dilemma on which honourable people may differ.

But too many unilateralists are not honest with themselves. They seem to believe that Britain could withdraw from the nuclear defence of the alliance without any significant risk—or indeed that it would be safer outside. Some explain this by saying that the Soviet Union is not in fact expansionist, that its military posture is largely a reaction to a perceived threat from the West, and that if the West disarmed it would not seek advantage, or might even disarm too.

Russian tradition of expansion

This is a weak argument. Russia has a long tradition of expansion and the Soviet Union has continued it by extending its influence wherever possible. Of course it can be argued that expansion has been undertaken only in the search for greater security, but one would need enormous confidence in this argument to stake the entire survival of western democracy on it. No responsible government could do so. And even if, for the sake of argument, one were to grant that Soviet intentions may now be pacific, is there any guarantee that they would remain so if the Soviet Union found itself enjoying unchallengeable military superiority in Europe? Power can corrupt governments as well as individuals.

Some members of CND reply that if a popular movement against nuclear arms were successful in Britain it would spread to western Europe and then to eastern Europe and perhaps even into the Soviet Union. This is a very distant possibility on which no government policy could be based. Admittedly if western Europe were to disarm it would give the Russians interesting problems in eastern Europe, but the Russians solve many of their problems by brute force and would be more likely to do so in this case without Nato opposite.

Unilateralist policies would thus launch Britain into a totally unpredictable future. To remain in the alliance without contributing effectively to it would be impossible, so Britain would at some point find itself outside. This might seem comfortable for a while because the Russians would presumably point their rockets elsewhere. But Britain is an important member of the alliance and her withdrawal would have wider effects.

There are several directions in which things might go, all of them undesirable. For instance, with the European balance upset, the Americans would depend almost wholly on West Germany, which might feel obliged to increase its defence effort, thereby alarming the Russians and slowly unstitching the entire European security system. British withdrawal would then have increased, not decreased, the danger of war.

Danger of American withdrawal

Alternatively, with the European alliance falling apart the Americans might withdraw to the other side of the Atlantic. This could add to the dangers of a Soviet-American confrontation elsewhere. It would also leave western Europe with no effective defence against the Soviet Union. Probably the Soviet Union would not march in but it could slowly increase its political influence to a point where political, cultural and economic freedoms would be destroyed.

Perhaps this would be preferable to nuclear war but there is no guarantee that this process would avert war. The present European security system, imperfect though it is, has prevented war for a comparatively long time by the standards of European history. It will certainly have to be modified over the years to reduce tension and bring eastern and western Europe closer together, but to destroy it unilaterally through British withdrawal would plunge it into highly dangerous instability. The more insular escapists among the unilateralists do not face up to this, or to the effects which would come back on Britain. They claim to be driven by moral concern but there is a streak of highly immoral irresponsibility in their desire to escape the risks which go with a sense of common duty towards the fate of Europe.

Governments, however, must take seriously the anxiety which feeds these tendencies or it will cause them still greater problems. It is to a large extent the result of the joint failure of East and West to reduce their differences and bring the arms race under control. The Russians must bear a lot of the blame because they continued to build up their arms while the Americans were cutting down in the 1970s, but the failure of the United States to ratify Salt II did a lot to undermine European confidence. If western governments are to avoid the further growth of unilateralism they must be seen to be trying harder to make the present balance of mutual deterrence more stable and effective. But they can base themselves on the argument that instability increases the risk of war, and unilateralism increases the risk of instability.

WHAT ARE THE NEW PARTY'S RIGHTS?

Now that twelve former Labour Members of Parliament have decided to sit in the House of Commons as Social Democrats a number of delicate questions will have to be decided. They have still to establish themselves as a separate party in the country: that move will be taken within the next few weeks. But from now on they have every right to be considered as a separate party in Parliament. That judgment will be challenged by those who maintain that the Social Democrats can have no parliamentary legitimacy until they have been elected with that label. Each of them was returned to the House of Commons in May 1979 as a Labour MP; and, it may be argued, they cannot claim that they would enjoy the same support as Social Democrats until that has been put to the test at the polls.

Yet there are reasons of both precedent and principle why the Social Democratic dozen should not be required to resign their seats and stand again in the ensuing by-elections. It has never been the practice that a member who crosses the floor of the House is expected to submit himself immediately for reelection. It is true that Mr Taverne did so at Lincoln in 1973, but that was the exception not the rule.

There is no good reason why a member should be required to do so because this would imply that he is elected simply as the nominee of his party. It may be more difficult these days to sustain the constitutional principle that an MP is the representative of his constituents, with the freedom and the responsibility to exercise his judgment on their behalf, but it needs to be sustained at every opportunity.

It follows that if a group of them decide to exercise their judgment so as to form a new party they have every right to do so. They should be recognized in the same way as any other party for the proceedings in the House, for service on select committees and so forth. It would also follow logically that twelve Social Democrats should take precedence over eleven Liberals as the third largest party in the House. But if the Social Democrats hope to have the electoral alliance with the Liberals by which they set such store they would be wise not to press their case in that respect. The Liberals would be justifiably upset if they were ousted from their position by a new group with only one more member, none of whom had stood for election in the colours in which they were now fighting.

There are then a series of questions, of a quasi constitutional nature, as to how the Social Democrats should be treated for broadcasting purposes. So far as news bulletins and the ordinary run of current affairs programmes are concerned, the broadcasting authorities should be guided solely by news values—which probably means that the Social Democrats would receive more exposure than their numbers in Parliament would suggest.

Party political broadcasts between now and the next election are a different matter. They are allotted on the basis of votes cast at the last election. These are the existing rules, and these formal broadcasts are not of such consequence that a concern for political equity should require them to be changed. The Social Democrats will not suffer too harsh a handicap if they do not have a party political broadcast in the meantime.

During the next election campaign they will have the right to one television election broadcast and one radio broadcast, each of five minutes, provided that they put at least fifty candidates in the field. Soundings have been taken by the broadcasting authorities and there is at the moment no disposition to change these rules. It is understandable that there is no rush to do so before a new party has even been formed in the country. But it would be quite wrong to stick inflexibly to the old regulations in new and fluid circumstances quite different from those for which they had been devised. The Social Democrats did not win any votes at the last election because they did not exist. But they will be represented at the next election by a number of members in the present Parliament and the opinion polls suggest that they will have a good deal and possibly a great deal of public support. A sense of fairness and realism requires that they should not be treated like a tiny fringe party of no consequence.

Crime prevention research

From Mr M. B. Murphy

Sir, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, as a distinguished authority and a member of an enlightened pressure group, wrote to you today (February 27) to express concern about the threat to the Home Office Reseach Unit. As a probation officer, I share his disquiet.

When resources are limited, surely it becomes even more necessary to see that they are expended most appropriately, through the monitoring of existing practice and the evaluation of new method. Progress in the treatment of offenders need not cost more, and indeed is likely to save money (if only on the high cost of imprisonment), but it does demand skilled analysis : research is essential to advancement. Any reduction in the resources of the Home Office Research Unit must be false economy.

The publications of the unit are to be found on the bookshelves of every probation office. They are a valuable asset to those of us engaged in the field of crime and delinquency.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN MURPHY,
53 Holloway Road, N7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helping the people of El Salvador

From Mr C. Martin Bax

Sir, Recent correspondence under this heading has not addressed itself to actually helping El Salvador's people but only to arguing about how the present appalling situation has arisen.

Continuous advice and information from our partners there has convinced Christian Aid not only that humanitarian aid is very urgently needed, but that United States policies supporting the junta in El Salvador are likely to escalate the violence and increase the suffering of the people.

Christian Aid has therefore made an appeal to its supporters in the British churches, and funds are being rapidly transferred to the Ecumenical Committee in El Salvador. Reliable channels for the application of this aid have been established. Through the British Council of Churches we have strongly requested British Government support for the proposed EEC humanitarian aid to be spent through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The British Council of Churches has also urged the British Government to continue its policy of not supplying military or economic aid to the El Salvador junta, and to support efforts towards a negotiated peace such as the West German initiative. Of course the Soviet and Cuban Governments' activities are significant but they will only succeed if the violence escalates.

Your readers may wish to support all of these initiatives actually to help the people of El Salvador.

Yours faithfully,
C. MARTIN BAX, Associate Director,
Christian Aid,
PO Box 1, SW9.
February 27.

From Mr Hallam Murray

Sir, I cannot share Mrs Thatcher's view that it is for the people of El Salvador to solve their own problems (Leader, February 28). This predominantly agricultural country—barely the size of Wales with a population of four million—is largely owned by a powerful group of landowners, known as the "Fourteen Families". The right-wing military junta which they support is of a particularly oppressive and unpleasant kind and is unlikely to moderate its policies without strong international pressure.

Last year, a friend and I bicycled through El Salvador on our way from Los Angeles to Lima, Peru. We met and stayed with many poor farming families. We often discussed the sad plight of their country, which is outstandingly beautiful and as rich in agricultural land as any country in Latin America. Without exception, the men and women whom we met were sickened by the crossfire of violence between left and right and longed for the day when they and their families might live in relative safety.

The El Salvador Human Rights Commission announced recently that 0.3 per cent of the population was killed during 1980, the vast majority by the regime's soldiers, paramilitary forces and death squads. Only recently has our press begun to take due notice of this appalling situation.

Without the strongest international pressure for land reform and for human rights, combined with a substantial package of international aid, it is difficult to see how the position can improve for these largely law-abiding and hard-working people.

Yours faithfully,
HALLAM MURRAY,
97 Shuttleworth Road, SW11.

Private members' Bills

From Mr Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, East (Labour and Co-operative)

Sir, Further to Mr Angus Nicol's (letter, February 26) doubts as to the purpose of Parliament with regard to the Gaelic Bill, may I support him in so far as Parliament's role in private members' legislation is concerned?

Some of the long and irrelevant speeches he refers to may well have been intended to obstruct not merely Donald Stewart's measure, but my own Safety of Children in Cars Bill, which was due to immediately follow for its second reading.

The tactics which can be employed to sink almost any such Bill increasingly make a mockery of any pretence at a truly independent private member's contribution to the law-making process.

Changes in the treatment of private members' initiatives are, in my view, urgently needed if it is to retain any credibility at all. I believe that the role of private members' legislation should be increased and that odds against private members' Bills getting on the statute book should be reduced.

Many important reforms have been enacted through the medium of private members' legislation and I feel that this should be increased.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SHEERMAN,
House of Commons.
February 27.

The Blue Division

From Mr John Crookshank

Sir, Your leader (February 26) about the recent, abortive coup in Spain summed up the situation clearly and concisely—and optimistically both for Spain and for her European neighbours, but not everyone would describe the Spanish Blue Division as "infamous".

The Spanish troops were deployed amidst the bleak Finnish forests and lakes at the northern end of the German front in a somewhat static corner of this enormous battlefield. They lacked mobility, were low down the priority list for modern equipment and must have wondered what they were fighting for but, as Spanish troops always do, they fought with bravery and determination in an unusually nasty part of a nasty war.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CROOKSHANK,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.

A switch in Civil Service loyalties?

From Mr G. W. Thom

Sir, It is reported (The Times, February 25) that the First Division Association, representing the administrative grades—from Principal to Permanent Secretary—in the Civil Service, has resolved to back the campaign by the Civil Service unions over pay.

The Civil Service has not always been treated generously or fairly in matters of pay and conditions of service, but until recently civil servants have accepted that where this a conflict between the national interest as the government of the day sees it and their own interests, the former must prevail.

As everybody knows, this is no longer the case. However, until quite recently the First Division Association was notably less willing than the unions representing the lower Civil Service grades to drift with the prevailing tide. A disturbing change became apparent when the association decided a few years ago, by a majority vote, to join the TUC. To join a body associated in the public mind with a particular method of pursuing industrial disputes and, equally important, with a marked political bias, showed bad judgment.

The decision yesterday, February 25, appears to mean that a substantial proportion of the members of the higher Civil Service are prepared to participate in action designed to hold the community to ransom in pursuance of their selfish interests. I express no view on the rights and wrongs of the dispute between the Civil Service and the Government. That is not the point. The point is that a large number of people occupying positions of influence at the centre of the governmental machine now subscribe to the doctrine that their first loyalty is to themselves and not to the Government which they are employed to serve. Many members of the public no doubt feel that they are right, but I suspect that a larger number take a different view.

I am sorry that I feel moved to write in this strain about former colleagues, but it seems to me that it would be healthy if there were to be some public debate on the changed ethos of a Service once renowned for its good sense and high standards.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. THOM,
The Oast House,
Upper Green Road,
Shipbourne,
Tonbridge,
Kent.
February 26.

From Mr A. J. Roberts

Sir, There was a time when the Civil Service could expect fair treatment from both your influential columns and from the Government; sadly it seems that neither is possible now.

You suggested on February 27 that the pay research unit would give a rise far above the prevailing rate. However, you choose to overlook the fact that this can only be possible if the current rates of Civil Service pay are, and have been for some time, far below the rate in comparable occupations. Now the Government has not only refused to honour the long established pay research system but has even suppressed the latest findings. This is surely a most lamentable example for a British government to set in the field of industrial relations.

Sir, all the civil servant is seeking is fair treatment but both you and the Government appear to resent and reject even this.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY J. ROBERTS,
179 Osborne Road,
Brighton.
February 28.

From Mr Theo Hetherington

Sir, As an ex-civil servant and former member of the First Division Association, I write to say how shocked and disgusted I was to read in your issue today (February 26) that the FDA have actually given their approval to "strike" action by the other Civil Service unions.

Does it really have to be pointed out that the duty of civil servants is, above all, to serve—to serve with unflagging loyalty and integrity the government of the day, whatever its political complexion? In the past the British Civil Service has been proud of a fine tradition of doing exactly that. The only distinction, in this regard, between the armed forces of the Crown and its civil servants is, or should be, that the former wear uniform and the latter do not. They all have the duty and privilege to serve.

In return for their loyal service, civil servants are rewarded—if a reward for serving one's country has to be computed—by greater security of employment and more generous conditions of retirement than are enjoyed by most others outside this corps d'élite. But even if they were not, for a government servant even to consider withholding his service should be unthinkable: it is a contradiction in terms. Yet now we are told that the FDA, those who should have the deepest sense of responsibility and the sharpest awareness of the duties of a civil servant, are actually condoning what is curiously misnamed in your report as "industrial action" (as if a service were an industry), but what in the fighting services would be called mutiny.

If any such infamous "strike" does take place I hope that the Government will immediately invite all retired civil servants to offer their services free, in any capacity, during the period of the stoppage. There must be many like myself who would want to do something to atone, in however small a degree, for such an appalling disgrace.

Yours faithfully.
THEO HETHERINGTON,
Mushroom Cottage,
Barker's Hill,
Shaftesbury,
Dorset.
February 26.

Heritage in danger

From Professor J. D. Evans

Sir, The recent decision by the Government to withdraw from the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) (letters February 17 and 26) is a signal and shocking example of the follies which can result from the implementation of a broad policy decision without due consideration of the consequences in detail. Despite its sesquipedalian appellation, ICCROM is a small but highly effective international organization which has done splendid work both directly and indirectly in promoting the conservation of the material cultural heritage (buildings, paintings, museum collections, etc) all over the world, and in the training of conservators and museologists from many countries in the latest techniques.

The Government has no criticism of ICCROM's work and the amount contributed by Britain annually ($65,000) is minute. The consequences of withdrawal on the other hand will be far reaching. Britain will suffer most, first in loss of grants to British candidates for ICCROM courses, secondly and more importantly in the inevitable loss of prestige and influence in a field where we have been regarded as leaders. ICCROM itself could also suffer further financial losses through the bad example set by our Government.

The benefits which we have enjoyed as members of ICCROM far outweigh the cost of membership even in financial terms, as Mr Feilden and Dr Taylor have shown. From my own experience as Director of the London University Institute of Archaeology I can add another example which they did not mention. For four years in the early seventies ICCROM provided generous financial support for a post in our Conservation Department to help the development of training in the subject.

The Government's action is as foolish in practice as it is disgraceful in principle. Some consultation beforehand might have prevented the perpetration of this absurdity in the name of a consistent policy. The Director of ICCROM will certainly have the full co-operation and backing of the Council for British Archaeology in his fight to raise Britain's subscription privately, but may one not hope that, in the light of the facts, the Government will now put good sense before consistency and revoke its decision?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. EVANS, President,
Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kennington Road, SE11.
February 27

Fight on the beaches

From Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie

Sir, The letter (February 20) from Mr P. M. Barlow under the above heading is exceedingly welcome, not only because its publication is some recognition of the very real threat to migratory salmonids which will inevitably develop should a "fishing up to the beaches" policy be adopted by the EEC, but also because it outlines so clearly this threat and the problem associated with sensible conservation of salmon and sea-trout when in the marine environment.

The Atlantic Salmon Trust has long maintained the crying need for resolute action to protect such a vulnerable but valuable resource and this has been well represented to appropriate authorities in the United Kingdom and the EEC. But the problem is not solved by establishing a 12-mile limit, or a limit at any other distance used to define national fishery limits.

Within such limits around the United Kingdom it is the Trust's view that all drift-netting for salmon and catching of migratory salmonids by gill nets of any description should be banned, existing fisheries being phased out gradually. Beyond national fishery limits there should be a complete ban on all forms of fishing for salmonids, in conformity with the appropriate article now and at last about to emerge from the United Nations International Law of the Sea Conference, in the initial drafting of which article the Trust played a substantial part.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MACKENZIE, Chairman,
The Atlantic Salmon Trust Ltd,
14 Downing Street,
Farnham,
Surrey.
February 23.

Swoop on the provinces

From Lady Elton

Sir, The sound of battle in Fleet Street is heard only too clearly in Bristol, where the Bristol Evening Post and the Western Daily Press are under threat of total control by the Associated Newspapers Group.

The concern for a healthy provincial press was put forward by The Royal Commission on the Press in 1949. The high mortality rate of independent provincial newspapers, and the consequent impoverishment of regional life, alarmed Sir Linton Andrews, Mr E. W. Martin, and Professor Raymond Williams. Professor Williams further considered the inestimable value of the local weeklies, and the means to secure it.

Since then, the Plymouth, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Torquay, and Exeter dailies, as well as 12 local weeklies including, ludicrously enough, the Cornish Guardian, have fallen to the Associated Newspapers Group. One wonders what credentials a vast metropolitan newspaper chain might claim as guardians of the richly diverse interests of West Country communities.

Daniel Defoe observed in the Bristol of the 1720's "a more entire independency upon London than any other town in Britain". Farley's Bristol Newspaper, "printed at my house near Newgate, in Wine Street" was part of that independency. Not far from Wine Street, the Bristol Evening Post has in our time served the interests of the Bristol region for half a century.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET ANN ELTON,
Clevedon Court,
Somerset.
March 1.

West Indies tour questions

From Dr J. W. Butt

Sir, I hope those who complain about the Guyanese attempt to ban a British cricketer were not supporters of Mrs Thatcher's attempts to wreck the Olympics.

Of course, it may be that those who are guilty of this inconsistency think that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is more hateful than apartheid. I wish they would come out in the open and say so.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. BUTT,
Department of Spanish,
King's College London,
Strand, WC2.
February 27.

From Mr O. E. Palmer

Sir, I am sure you are right (leading article, February 27)—it is for the selectors to select.

I am equally sure it is for the selectors to respect the feelings of the hosts (feelings shared in this country) if they claim a right to select the guests.

Your faithfully,
O. E. PALMER,
11 Causeway,
Horsham, West Sussex.
February 27.

From Mr P. J. Spooner

Sir, It is sad that Robin Jackman, who has made such a stalwart contribution to the English county scene for many years, should be used as a political pawn, especially at a time when he is on the brink of representing his country overseas.

It is perhaps a point for reflection that a number of the current West Indian team play consistently against South African citizens, albeit outside the boundaries of the Republic itself.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. SPOONER,
131 Boundary Road,
Wallington, Surrey.
February 27.

EEC quantum theory

From Lord Walston

Sir, Your issues of February 20 and 23 remind us that the annual haggle over farm prices is now starting in Brussels. You rightly point to the difficulties raised by over production, which to many indicates that prices are too high: and the fall in farm incomes, in spite of good harvests, which supports farming arguments for higher prices.

At last the Commission is moving towards policies which can square this circle: the idea of a co-responsibility levy is gaining ground. This should be elaborated and vigorously pursued. May I suggest how it could work for wheat?

The Commission should fix a quantum (quota is still a dirty word) for the whole Community and guarantee a price for this amount which reflects the rise in cost of inputs and gives a fair return to the farmer. The surplus over and above this quantum will not rank for intervention, but, if sold into intervention, will be paid for at world prices. The final figure paid out to farmers will reflect the amount of the surplus and the price received for it. The quantum will, in the first instance, be at the level of production of the 1980 harvest. It will be reduced annually by 2½ per cent until the world price of wheat rises to within, say, 10 per cent of the guaranteed price, or until it reaches a predetermined level. In this way the political pressures inherent in our present method of fixing prices and quantities will be minimized!

The tax payer's contribution will be kept within agreed limits; while farmers, if the harvest is bad and no surplus is produced, will receive a higher price, but if the harvest is good prices will fall.

I hope that Mr Walker will be able to persuade his fellow ministers to accept in principle a solution on these lines.

Yours truly,
WALSTON,
A14 Albany,
Piccadilly, W1.
February 24.

Care of ancient buildings

From Captain C. B. Featherstone-Dilke

Sir, Lord Mersey (February 19) is absolutely right. In former times, judging by nineteenth century photographs of this ancient place, ivy was considered an asset—the house sparrows loved it as a nesting place!

I have recently had a blitz here. Not only had the ivy clamped itself onto the mortar of the 14th century walls, but several stones of the main curtain walls had been lifted some three inches by the roots of this insidious weed. They weigh over one hundredweight each.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. FEATHERSTONE-DILKE,
Maxstoke Castle,
Coleshill, Warwickshire.
February 26.

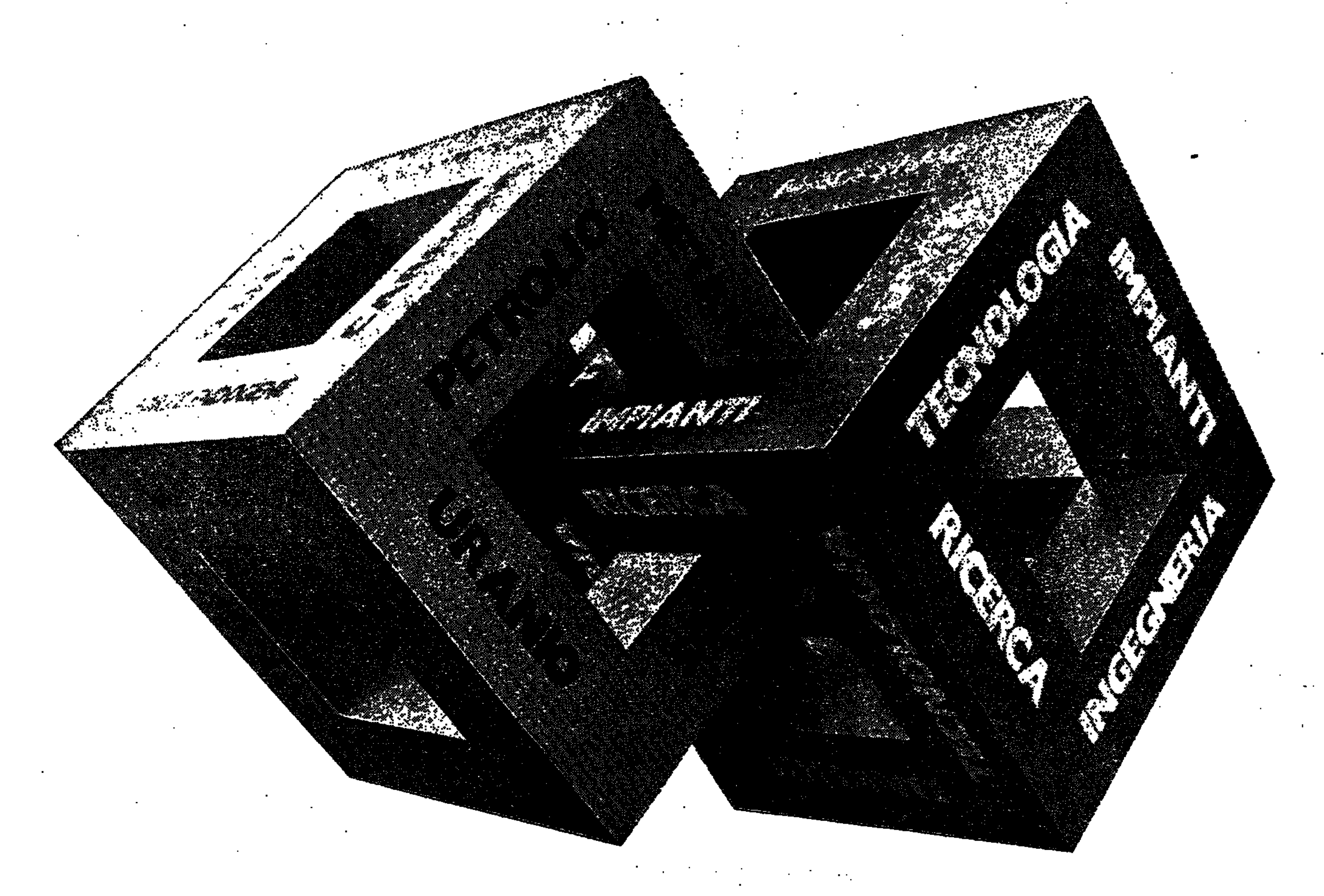
From Mr A. Drew-Edwards

Sir, The letter from Mr Trevor Jukes (February 26) questioning whether ivy damages buildings is interesting. From my experience in the repair and conservation of historic buildings, I have found that ivy on the outside of a wall does not cause damage either to the mortar or to the walling material but it is a different matter when the roots and stems grow within the thickness of the walling.

In this situation, the increasing size of the stems as years pass can cause considerable damage. In mediaeval stone walling especially, which is usually constructed of inner and outer faces with an internal filling of rubble, the expansion of the stems will, over the years, distort the masonry and can eventually push the faces apart thus making rebuilding necessary.

My answer to Mr Jukes will be that ivy is unlikely to cause damage unless the roots or stems enter the masonry when damage is almost certain.

Yours faithfully,
A. DREW-EDWARDS,
Drew-Edwards Keene,
34 Princes Road West,
Leicester.
February 27.



THE IMPORTANCE OF A COMMITMENT

During 1980 the ENI Group consolidated still further its position among the world's major industrial groups.

On preliminary estimates, turnover during the year amounted to $US30,000 million.

This result represents the involvement and work of more than one hundred and twenty thousand people and of a production organisation which operates in numerous fields: petroleum, natural gas, engineering, chemicals, mechanical engineering and textiles.

The ENI Group thus represents an important point of reference in the industrial plan, in key sectors of economic development.

The ENI Group is moreover actively involved in the wider area of international co-operation and in the direct dialogue between producer countries and consumer countries, directed towards a policy of interchange for the rational use of resources and technology.

This is the ENI Group in the '80's: a great design of technology and work, an Italian commitment to the world, a positive contribution to international co-operation.

Agip
Prospection, production and supply of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, of minerals in general. Refining and distribution of petroleum products.

Snam
Supply, transport, distribution and sale of natural gas. Transport of oil and petroleum products.

AgipNucleare
Prospection and production of uranium ores, nuclear fuel cycle operations, renewable energy sources, energy conservation.

Samim
Exploration, production and marketing of non-ferrous metals.

Anic
Base chemicals and derivatives. Secondary and fine chemicals. Pharmaceuticals.

Snamprogetti
Design and engineering of oil and gas pipelines on land and offshore, petroleum and petrochemical plants, other industrial plants.

Saipem
Drilling and pipelaying on land and offshore, construction of industrial plants.

NuovoPignone
Manufacturing and supplying machinery, equipment, and measuring and control instruments for the petroleum, petrochemical and nuclear industries, looms for the textile industry.

Savio
Production and supply of machinery for the textile industry.

Lanerossi
Textile and garment manufacturing industry.

Sofid
Financing industrial and commercial activities of the ENI group.

Will the Budget bring a new redundancy deal? page 17

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 501.4 down 5.2
FT Gilts 68.97 down 0.15

■ **Sterling**
$2.1805 down 245 pts
Index 98.7 down 0.2

■ **Dollar**
Index 101.4 up 0.8
DM 2.1495 up 190 pts

■ **Gold**
$465.8 down $21.7

■ **Money**
3 mth sterling 13-12⅞
3 mth Euro $ 17⅛-16⅞
6 mth Euro $ 17⅛-17⅛

IN BRIEF

Joint UK venture on defence satellites

British Aerospace and Plessey have agreed to collaborate on the development of communications satellites for defence purposes. The two companies have joined forces as proposals are being considered by the Ministry of Defence to reestablish an independent British military satellite communications network costing £100m.

Although the new system, known as Satcom/Skynet IV, would exchange information through the Nato and United States satellite networks, the project has been designed specifically to accommodate the Trident submarine system and the increasing use of space communications links by the majority of the Royal Navy's vessels.

The collaboration of British Aerospace and Plessey in this field presents a direct challenge to the GEC company, Marconi Space and Defence Systems, which specializes in military and space communications equipment.

Ban on Japanese TVs

The European Community has approved a French ban on the importation of Japanese colour television sets by way of other European countries. The import quota was filled in 1979 and 1980, but imports of these sets through other European nations quadrupled in those same years from 18,700 to 76,700.

Industrial training

Some industrial training boards may have outlived their usefulness, Mr Peter Morrison, Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment, said in Birmingham. Mr Morrison said that industrial training could be far less bureaucratic and cheaper if it were run by industry on its own.

Refinancing plan

Business confidence in Massey-Ferguson is being tested again as the company tries to sell Can$200m of government-backed preferred shares. The issue forms part of a complicated Can$730m refinancing plan designed to rescue Massey from bankruptcy.

Loan to China

The International Monetary Fund has approved a 12-month standby arrangement for 450 million special drawing rights for China. The loan is in support of China's economic programme.

Plant to close

Luke and Spencer, of Altrincham, Cheshire, manufacturers of abrasive wheel and grinding machines, is to close in May with the loss of 180 jobs.

Prime rate cut

Chemical Bank has cut its prime rate to 18½ per cent. Other big banks remain at 19 per cent.

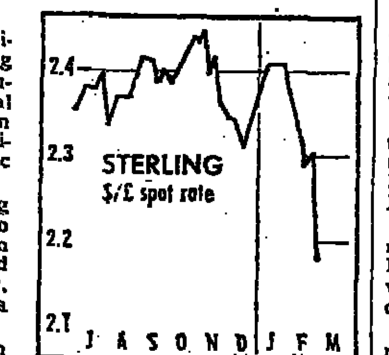
Wall Street up

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.41 points up at 977.99. The $-SDR 1.21578. The £ was 0.558338.

Pound down by 2.45 cents to 10-month low against dollar

By Frances Williams

Far Eastern selling precipitated a further slide in sterling yesterday, prompted by continuing speculation of a substantial cut in minimum lending rate in next week's Budget and pessimism over Britain's economic prospects.



By the time London trading opened the pound had fallen to $2.1655, down 4 cents from Friday's close. But it recovered some ground during the day, finishing down 2.45 cents at a 10-month low of $2.1805.

The pound's fall arose in part from a stronger dollar, which was boosted by firmer Eurodollar interest rates.

The dollar closed up 1.90 pfennigs against the Deutsche mark, while its effective exchange rate index measured against a basket of currencies rose 0.8 to 101.4.

Gold plunged nearly $25 to end the day at $465.8, its lowest since December 1979, in response to the stronger dollar and higher American interest rates.

London foreign exchange dealers took the view that sterling had been oversold abroad on speculation that minimum lending rate would be cut by 3 per cent or more in the Budget. They believe a 2 per cent cut is more likely, given the Government's continuing commitment to a tight monetary policy and its high borrowing requirement in the second quarter of 1981.

In Eurocurrency markets, three month sterling was trading at just under 13 per cent, below the rates for the Deutsche mark and French franc as well for the dollar. Nevertheless, the pound was generally steady against Continental currencies.

Eurodollar rates rose on the expectation that United States interest rates will remain high in future months, encouraged by worse-than-expected American money supply figures published on Friday.

In German money markets, with trading thin because of pre-Lent holidays, interest rates on call money soared to 20 to 30 per cent in the first minutes of trading. But they eased back to around 20 per cent after the German Federal Bank announced that it would provide the banking system with several thousands of millions of marks in extra liquidity through currency swaps.

The Deutsch mark has been doing well against other currencies in the European Monetary System since the German Federal Bank acted over a week ago to tighten credit and drive up short-term interest rates. But it remains weak against the dollar, which has led to speculation that the Federal Bank may be forced to introduce a more general support package for the mark, perhaps coordinated with a similar package for the Swiss franc.

In domestic money markets the six monthly payment of petroleum revenue tax was largely responsible for an estimated shortage of more than £1,000m in the discount market.

The Bank of England relieved the shortage through exceptionally large purchases of paper and lending at MLR for periods of seven and eight days.

Although the temporary reduction, from 10 to 8 per cent, in the banks' minimum reserve asset ratios took some of the pressure off the system, overnight money was still very tight, closing at around 25 per cent after briefly touching 50 per cent. With the shortage not expected to unwind before next week, the one week rate traded above 17 per cent.

Financial Editor, page 17

Government names committee to monitor performance of BSC

Laird Group chief heads steel panel

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The Government yesterday announced the formation of the committee which will monitor the performance of Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of the British Steel Corporation, and will determine how much of the controversial "transfer deal" fee his former employers will receive.

Mr John Gardiner, chief executive of the Laird Group, will be the independent chairman of the committee which will meet to monitor the progress of BSC towards meeting performance objectives.

The success, or otherwise in meeting those targets will determine how much of the £1,150,000 will be paid to Lazard Freres, the American investment bankers Mr MacGregor left to join BSC.

Under the terms of the deal, the Government paid an initial sum of £675,000 for Mr MacGregor's three-year term, with provision for pro rata refunds if he failed to complete the full term.

Two prominent businessmen have been nominated by Mr MacGregor as members of the committee. They are, Viscount Weir, chairman and chief executive of the Weir Group and formerly a non executive director of the BSC, and Mr Albert Frost, a director of British Airways and S. G. Warburg.

Mr Albert Frost, left, and Viscount Weir: businessmen on the committee.

Sir Keith Joseph has appointed as his nominees to the committee, Mr John Steele, a deputy secretary at the Department of Industry, who among other responsibilities supervises policy towards the steel industry, and Mr Kenneth Sharp, head of the Government's accountancy services.

The committee members were announced in a Commons written reply by Mr Michael Marshall, junior industry minister and come after last week's announcement that the Government is to provide BSC with a further £880m over the next 15 months and write off of £3,509m of debt.

Mr Gardiner was a former executive with the now defunct Industrial Reorganization Corporation and is also a non executive director of British Shipbuilders.

Yesterday Sir Keith and Mr Marshall met a delegation of stell industry union leaders led by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation accompanied by members of the private sector trade union action committee. Mr Sirs emphasized the difficulties being faced by the private sector companies as a result of the recession.

Among the delegation were representatives from the Llanelli plant of Duport which is due to be closed under an agreement reached with BSC. Duport steel processing activities will be temporarily taken over by the BSC before forming a part of a new jointly-owned company in the engineering steels sector.

Mr. Donald Evans, one of the representatives from the Llanelli plant gave a warning that when the plant's order book is exhausted in a few weeks time they would seek to prevent the removal of any equipment.

Today representatives from the Llanelli works will press their case during a visit to the EEC Commission in Brussels where a Council of Ministers meeting will be discussing measures to halt the crisis in the steel industry.

Talks fail on sale of Southern TV studios

By Kenneth Gosling

TV South, the new independent television franchise holder for the South and South-east, said yesterday that it was confident it would be ready to go on the air by next January—even though it will have to build its own studios in Southampton.

Negotiations between itself and the outgoing company, Southern, to take over existing studios broke down after talks lasting two months between the merchant bankers for the companies—Warburgs for Southern, Henry Ansbacher for TV South.

Southern said TV South's offer was "unrealistic and unacceptable". TV South said it was "fair" and reasonable.

Neither would comment on the figures, but one TV South source said the gap between the two was "unbridgeable".

According to Southern's last annual report, the value of the freehold of the studios at Northam was £4.8m and the total book value of the company's assets was £6.8m.

TV South said in its original application that it would attempt to reach agreement with Southern for the acquisition of its principal assets by the end of February.

In spite of the breakdown, Southern said in a statement that it would continue discussions on all operational matters which needed to be resolved, particularly those affecting the company's 500 staff. These had to be resolved before the end of Southern's contract with the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Southern Television had no comment yesterday on the future of its Northam studios. TV South is understood to have its eye on a site in central Southampton

Lord Boston of Faversham, chairman of TV South, issued a statement regretting the breakdown of negotiations with Southern and confirmed assurances already given to that company's staff that their future would be secure.

Neepsend closures on the way

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Neepsend, the Sheffield special steels and engineering group, is to close a large part of its steel activities. The interim dividend has also been passed, after a half year loss—the first in the group's 60-year history.

Mr Stanley Speight, chairman and a former Master Cutler of Sheffield, said in a statement accompanying the results: "In recent years we have been able to continue our activities in steel because other parts of the group were making good profits".

He said the group had used this breathing space to up-date plant and improve efficiency but the Government had failed to act on unfair import competition, now taking 50 per cent of the domestic market, and the group's energy costs were as much as 50 per cent more than those of overseas competitors.

"In the light of this situation, your directors are of the opinion that there is no long term future for our traditional position in steel and have decided to terminate many of these activities", he said.

No further details were available but local sources believe that Neepsend intends to close all its steel melting and re-rolling activities which might involve about 500 redundancies.

Since April, 1980, there have been 400 redundancies, reducing the group workforce to 1,300.

Neepsend lost £1.66m before tax in the six months to September 30 compared with a £810,000 profit in the comparable period. The loss included £100,000 redundancy costs, but there will be more in the second half. Interest charges rose from £584,000 to £680,000.

Mr Speight said the main reason for the losses was the fall-off in sales since April. Sales fell from £17.4m to £11.7m.

Financial Editor page 17

Britain seeks to retain compulsory controls on EEC steel production

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 2

Britain will tell its European partners tomorrow that it wants compulsory controls on Community steel production to continue because of sluggish demand, unless an effective alternative method of restraint can be agreed.

Britain's view is to be outlined by Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry, over an informal luncheon with his EEC colleagues before a more general discussion on the future of the hard-pressed European steel industry in the afternoon.

The present system of mandatory production limits, which was introduced last October under Article 58 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty to shore-up falling prices, will expire on June 30 unless renewed by members.

The British view is understood to be shared by a majority of member states. Only Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the West German economics minister, is likely to express outright opposition to any extension of the Article 58 emergency powers.

"We didn't like Article 58 from the beginning and we will continue strongly to oppose it," a West German spokesman said.

The only alternative would appear to be a return to some kind of voluntary system of production quotas by steel manufacturers, but subject to stricter supervision than in the past.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, the normally loquacious EEC Commissioner for Industry, has been notably reticent in public about what he thinks should happen after June 30, while managing to leave the clear impression that he would dearly like to be rid of the emergency powers.

Although Britain and West Germany do not see eye to eye on Article 58, they appear otherwise to be in broad agreement on the strategy that should be followed during the next phase of restructuring of the steel industry.

Both would like to see a firm timetable set for the elimination of all state aid to the steel sector — Britain has suggested the end of 1983 — and would like EEC members to commit themselves to a coordinated programme of capacity reduction.

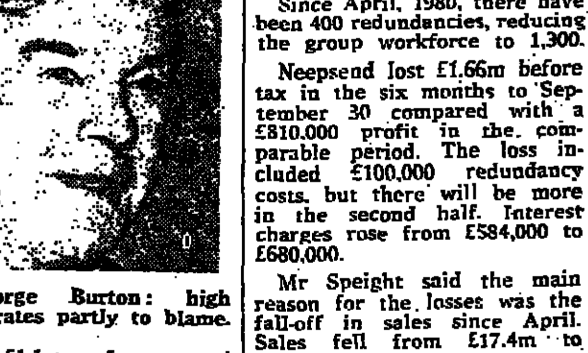
Britain also has the support of the West Germans in arguing that all new investment in the steel industry likely to lead to an increase in production capacity should be banned. This is broadly in line with the thinking of the European Commission.

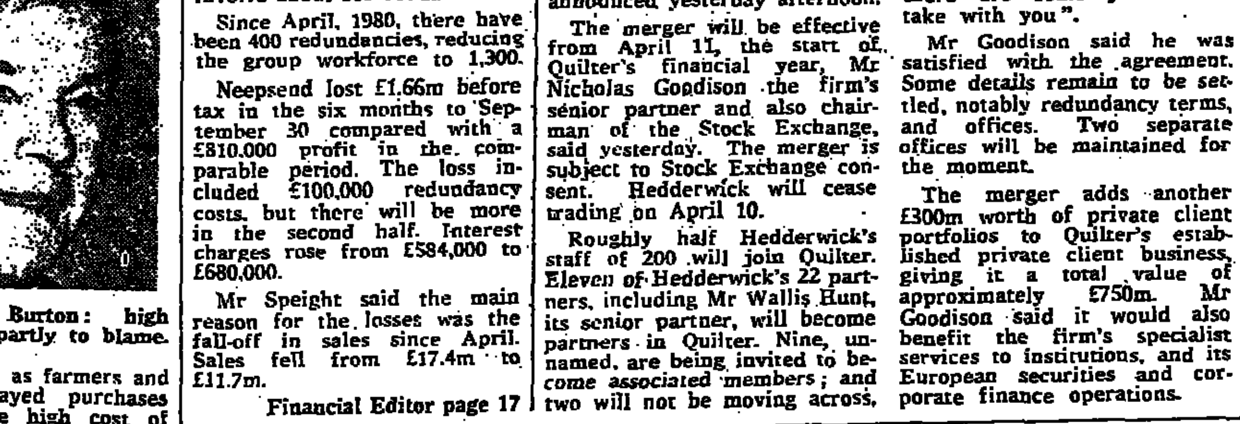
Italy and Belgium are among the countries expected to have difficulty in agreeing to capacity reduction. The Belgians have a special problem in that investment in new continuous-casting plant was part of the price paid to secure trade union agreement to the recent merger of the country's two main steel-making companies.

Fisons lose £16.8m and cut dividend

By Ronald Pullen

Fisons yesterday capped a traumatic period for the group with news that after a £1.5m loss in the second half, full year pretax profits had collapsed from £17.3m to only £3.8m. After a high tax charge and redundancy and closure costs of £11.9m, the group made an overall loss of £16.8m against a profit of £12.1m the year before.





Sir George Burton: high interest rates partly to blame.

Three years ago the agricultural chemicals and pharmaceuticals company was making over £23m pretax and the severity of this year's setback has forced it to cut the final dividend from 9.6p to 3.1p net, saving £3.55m and leaving the total for the year more than a third lower at 10p.

The results come only days after ICI also announced that it lost money in the second half and was taking the almost unprecented step of cutting its dividend. Many other British chemical companies are expected to announce sharply lower profits for last year, the worst trading period for the industry since the war, and the stockmarket is fearing that dividends are in danger too.

Sir George Burton, the chairman, put much of the blame for the poor results on the recession at home and in Europe and North America, as well as high interest rates.

Overall, sales managed a 3 per cent rise to £454m, but fierce competition has prevented it recouping higher costs through increased selling prices. The strength of sterling is also reckoned to have cut £20m from exports.

The worst affected division was fertilizers, where there was a £4m turnround to trading losses of £1.1m as farmers and merchants delayed purchases because of the high cost of carrying stocks.

Fisons has announced a big rationalization of its fertilizer division involving the closure of peripheral sites and the loss of 1,100 jobs, a quarter of the division's total. Losses are expected to continue into the first half of this year. All other divisions have also shown reduced trading profits in the year.

Fisons' troubles have been exacerbated by high interest costs which almost doubled interest charges to £12.6m. Tax also rose sharply, from £4.1m to £5m as losses at home could not be offset against profits earned abroad.

Despite the bad news, Fisons shares managed to rally 12p to 140p on the stock market, helped by vague talk that the parlous state of the group could attract a takeover.

Financial Editor and company profits, page 17

Stockbroking firms amalgamate

By Catherine Gunn

The amalgamation of stockbroking firms Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar and Quilter Hilton Goodison was finally announced yesterday afternoon.

The merger will be effective from April 11, the start of Quilter's financial year, Mr Nicholas Goodison the firm's senior partner and also chairman of the Stock Exchange, said yesterday. The merger is subject to Stock Exchange consent. Hedderwick will cease trading on April 10.

Roughly half Hedderwick's staff of 200 will join Quilter. Eleven of Hedderwick's 22 partners, including Mr Wallis Hunt, its senior partner, will become partners in Quilter. Nine, unnamed, are being invited to become associated members; and two will not be moving across.

Commenting on the merger yesterday, Mr Hunt said: "I am very pleased indeed for the business and the future, but sad that on such occasions there are some you cannot take with you".

Mr Goodison said he was satisfied with the agreement. Some details remain to be settled, notably redundancy terms, and offices. Two separate offices will be maintained for the moment.

The merger adds another £300m worth of private client portfolios to Quilter's established private client business, giving it a total value of approximately £750m. Mr Goodison said it would also benefit the firm's specialist services to institutions, and its European securities and corporate finance operations.

But Hedderwick's gilt-edged department will be wound up.

Hedderwick's will now be wound up, releasing the partners' capital. The new partners in the enlarged Quilter will bring their capital with them.

They are: Mr Hunt, Mr Robin Althaus, Mr John Booth, Mr John Byron, Mr William Callingham, Mr Ion Calvocoressi, Mr Christopher Curtis, Mr Peter Hilliar, Mr Peter Kay, Mr Simon Meredith-Hardy and Mr John Welchman.

The merger talks resulted from an informal conversation between Mr Hunt and Mr Richard Elaxland, Quilter's managing partner, some months ago. "We are old friends", Mr Hunt said yesterday.

The formal discussions took place on Thursday and Friday last week before the agreement was concluded

Fox board to decide on takeover bid

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, March 2

The 20th Century Fox film company board wil meet again on March 27 to make a final consideration of the $800m (£363m) offer to buy the studio by Mr Marvin Davis the Denver oilman. It looks as if the deal will go through with few problems.

Mr Davis' offer to acquire the company is viewed "with enthusiasm" Mr Denis Stanfill, chairman and chief executive, said after the board met with Mr Davis. The board authorized further discussions with Mr Davis which could lead to negotiations of a formal agreement on the deal.

Mr Stanfill described the meeting as "very friendly and positive".

It was his first public comment since the surprise news of the takeover bid was announced more than a week ago.

Mr Davis toured the studio and a spokesman said afterwards "He is going to put a lot of money into it and he is determined to make it number one".

The film company, one of the most famous in Hollywood, which has leisure activities as well, would be transformed from a public traded corporation in to a private company if the Davis offer is successful.

Under the agreement with Fox's biggest shareholder, Chris-Craft Industries Incorporated of New York, April 7 is the deadline for execution of a definite deal between Mr Davis and Fox. If that deadline is not met Chris-Craft has the right to terminate its agreement to support the Davis offer.

Mr Alan Hirschfield, vice chairman of Fox, said Mr Davis had indicated that he would keep the same management team if he takes over.

There have been reported conflicts in the past nine months between Mr Stanfill and Mr Hirschfield, the man he hired to run the studio.

NEB invests £265,000 in personal computers

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The National Enterprise Board yesterday announced its first investment from its recently created venture capital fund which relies heavily on American entrepreneurial expertise.

Through Anglo-American Venture Fund, a £2m subsidiary established late last year, the NEB is providing £265,000 in the form of redeemable preference and ordinary shares in Positron Computers, a company established two years ago.

Anglo American Venture Fund was established last November as a wholly owned subsidiary of the NEB aimed specifically at promoting high technology, especially electronics, in the assisted areas.

Established with government approval under Sir Arthur Knight, former chairman of the NEB, the board linked up with Mr Jack Melchor, a highly successful Californian venture capitalist.

The fund company is associated with Anglo-American Venture Management, whose operations are directed by Mr Melchor.

Its tasks include identification of United Kingdom entrepreneurs with their own ideas and plans for developing new manufacturing companies in the assisted areas.

It will also seek out entrepreneurs willing to exploit opportunities for building businesses based on the transfer of products already successfully launched in the United States.

Positron, which is based at Haydock, near St Helens, Lancashire, was formed to design and manufacture high quality, high reliability personal computer processors.

Its founders, Mr Peter Plinston and Mr Peter Loftus, will control 50 per cent of the company's ordinary shares with the balance split between the venture fund and personal investments by Mr Melchor and a colleague.

The company's first product is a single board general purpose computer which will be launched initially with education oriented software and which will be aimed at secondary schools and other educational establishments.

In the medium term the company plans to expand into the general business and professional market. The machine is expected to cost less than £1,000 and will have facilities to connect with the Prestel service.

Yesterday the NEB announced that Dr Dennis Oliver, an executive director of Pilkington Brothers has been appointed to the board of Anglo-American Venture Fund.

Other board members include Mr Harry Harrison, chairman of Simon Engineering Mr Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux Breweries and Mr Arthur Ward, director of regional affairs for the NEB.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Euro Ferries	7½p to 167p	ML Holdings	28p to 338p
Fisons	12p to 140p	Mercantile Hse	10p to 625p
Global Nat Res	35p to 475p	Ranger Oil	45p to 700p
Gripperrods	8p to 136p	Sainsbury J	7p to 345p

Falls

Anglo Am Corp	26p to 596p	SA Land	37p to 247p
Bracken Mines	12p to 156p	UC Invest	66p to 465p
Lloyds Bank	18p to 318p	Vlakfontein	35p to 215p
Minorco	23p to 610p	W Rands Cons	22p to 158p
Nat W'minster	17p to 363p	Western Areas	19p to 263p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.94	1.86	Norway Kr	12.50	11.85
Austria Sch	34.70	32.50	Portugal Esc	126.00	120.00
Belgium Fr	80.75	76.75	South Africa Rd	2.05	1.91
Canada $	2.68	2.59	Spain Pta	193.00	184.00
Denmark Kr	15.23	14.42	Sweden Kr	10.57	10.02
Finland Mkk	9.40	8.90	Switzerland Fr	4.50	4.27
France Fr	11.35	10.85	USA $	2.23	2.16
Germany DM	4.85	4.61	Yugoslavia Dnr	83.00	77.50
Greece Dr	116.00	110.00			
Hongkong $	12.05	11.45			
Ireland Pt	1.32	1.26			
Italy Lir	2360.00	2250.00			
Japan Yn	485.00	459.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.36	5.10			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

American airline offers 'three for the price of two' deal to raise cash

200 used passenger aircraft wait for buyers

Buy two, get one free. That is the remarkable deal offered by one American airline in an attempt to sell unwanted second-hand aircraft.

There is an unprecedented glut in the market for used planes, and an estimated 200 passenger jets are now parked in remote desert and scrub-land sites round the world awaiting buyers.

The number has quadrupled over the past 12 months and prices have slumped. Competition for buyers—including the Third World and bargain-hunters from Europe and the United States—has intensified.

Airlines, most of which are pressed for cash during the present recession, are offering increasingly attractive deals, including leasing-to-buy arrangements on highly favourable terms.

Mr Gianleopoldo de Julio, Alitalia's manager of aircraft leasing and sales, who recently delivered a third DC 8-62 to a South American customer, said that the glut could worsen. He expects several hundred passenger jets, mainly DC 8s and Boeing 707s, to come on to the market over the next few years.

Many will fail to find buyers and be scrapped, he fears, although he acknowledges that some world plane brokers are hoping that the glut may prove to be only temporary.

British Airways is one of many world carriers which has increased its sales into the second-hand market in recent years.

It is now negotiating the sale of 14 VC-10s to Lansa Caribbean and has two brand new 747s, still with the makers Boeing, on offer. In addition, it is looking for buyers for five Viscounts and three 707s. A further eight 707s will be sold over the next three years, and British Airtours, a BA charter subsidiary, will soon be offering four 707s for sale.

In recent months British Airways has sold six Viscounts to British Air Ferries and two 747s to TWA. The disposal of undelivered 747s has been prompted by the airline's need to make economies.

Two factors have been important in creating the present saturated market. First is the tremendous pressure to retire fuel-inefficient planes such as the 707 and DC-8, which because of rising energy costs have become old before their time, in effect.

Second is the introduction of new noise pollution regulations. These means that several hundred planes, in the 707 and DC-8 ranges primarily will either have to be scrapped or re-engined if they are to be allowed to use European and American airports after 1985. The other option, to which airlines will be turning over the next couple of years, is to try to lease or sell them at knock-down prices.

A 707 in good condition can be picked up for $1m or less, while British Airways could possibly be tempted by an offer of as little as £50,000 for one of its 10 to 20-year-old Viscounts—although a similar model in top condition might cost up to £130,000.

John Huxley

Hongkong's reexports top £251m

Hongkong's vital reexport trade soared to a record HK$3,000m (£251.6m) last year, an increase of 50 per cent over 1979. China has become the number one market for Hongkong reexports and the number one source of reexports abroad via Hongkong.

Reexports to China rose from HK$1,310m in 1979 to HK$4,640m (an increase of 253 per cent) and its own exports via Hongkong from HK$5,660m to HK$8,390m, a 48 per cent increase.

The boom is a further indication of the importance of Hongkong to China and enhances the growing cooperation to mutual advantage between China and its former "colonial" neighbour.

US car sales

With showrooms brimming with unsold cars, United States manufacturers are cutting their first quarter production schedules again in an attempt to reduce stocks. Hopes are that inventories will be reduced to a point that even if sales nose-dive after new rebates programmes end in mid-March, dealers will have room for cars assembled in March.

Swiss liquidity

Following the Swiss National Bank's latest discount and Lombard rate increases, banking liquidity in Switzerland rose strongly towards the end of February, and banking industry sources said the approach of the monthly settlement date appeared to outweigh other factors in influencing the activity.

Syria trade expands

Despite strong relations with the Soviet Union, Syria has been expanding its economic ties with the West. Dozens of European companies are involved in projects in Syria, and officials there are hoping that the volume of trade with the west will continue to expand.

Belgian deficit

M Marc Eyskens, Belgian finance minister, said that the *public sector's financing needs* this year were likely to climb to BFranc7,000m (£8.9m). Much of this would have to be met by foreign borrowings, and this would put further strains on Belgium's deteriorating balance of payments.

Shorter shifts at VW

Volkswagenwerk the West German car maker, said that it was planning to introduce short shifts at its transmission plant in Kassel, sometime in April. A spokesman said plans were to cut back work for about a week.

S Korea jobless

South Korea's unemployment rate averaged 5.2 per cent in 1980, the second worst level since 1967, when it stood at 6.2 per cent, the national bureau of statistics said. The number of jobless was 749,000 for 1980, up from 542,000 in the previous year.

$6,700m budget

China's budget deficit exceeded $6,700m (£3,004m) in 1980, the magazine *Peking Review* said. The Government's original estimate was for a deficit of $5,300m.

Citröen lay-offs

Peugeot's subsidiary Automobiles Citröen said that it plans an average two days of lay-offs at all its factories in March, *affecting about 30,000* of its 54,000 workforce.

Incomes Data Services looks at public and private organizations

Defining changes in managers' pay

Incomes Data Services (IDS), the researchers specializing in pay and conditions of employment, yesterday launched a new service for those needing to *pinpoint changes in management pay* which IDS describes as "a jumble of contradictory information".

The first monthly report from IDS's new Top Pay Unit attacks suggestions that *directors' salaries have risen nearly 40* per cent—while also letting in some light on top people's salaries at the Post Office, the National Coal Board and 13 organizations in both private and public sectors.

Average annual salary increases for directors are probably less than 20 per cent in most cases, according to the review. It dismisses as "far from conclusive" an analysis in a BBC *Money Programme* suggesting that increases in chairmen's and chief executives' salaries had been 39.9 per cent.

The BBC's sample of 50 top companies was small and selective, argues the review. It was based on data from annual reports and reflected total remuneration, including bonus payments, rather than just salaries. Given the source, with reporting time lags, the aggregate levels reported in 1980 would have reflected rises in 1979 when pay was recovering from a period of pay restraint.

Two more recent and extensive surveys suggested the IDS conclusion about the level of average salary increases. One—by Charterhouse—reported a median increase of 13.6 per cent.

But the review added: "Although good information is available on the levels of directors' pay, percentage increase figures are frequently suspect." There are many critical variables determining salaries, including types of directorship, the industry involved, profitability and especially the size of company.

The review's initial researches have thrown up more than 60 sources of surveys on salaries and benefits as well as information from government and other public sector areas. The data has proved of astonishing diversity, much of it suspect and non-comparable and in need of qualification, according to Mr Mark Layton, the review's managing editor who is also a director of IDS.

The review at first will be able to do only limited original research of its own, although analyses based on job advertising is a possibility. But a start has been made on tracking changes in management salaries at individual companies on which there are reports. These showed that in a number of cases managers received salary increases in line with shop floor rises. It is too early yet to see a pattern on such trends, Mr Layton said.

At the Post Office at the end of last year, for instance, the top management band had a 15.1 per cent rise compared with an arbitration award for other levels of between 20.6 per cent and 23.6 per cent.

At the National Coal Board, however, managers received almost the same rises as the mineworkers after the January settlement—9.73 per cent on salary scales and 13.2 per cent on bonus payments. But there had been downward pressure on management salaries previously, the review points out.

Top Pay Review, monthly, by Incomes Data Services; £45 annual subscription.

Derek Harris

CEGB threat to halt coal supplies deal

By Our Energy Correspondent

Talks aimed at reducing the Central Electricity Generating Board's coal imports next year have started with the National *Coal Board, Sir Derek Ezra, the* NCB chairman, said yesterday.

The CEGB has given a warning that it would end its agreement to take 75 million tonnes from the NCB annually over five years if it were effectively prevented from importing coal.

Its imports next year are expected to fall from 5½ million tonnes to 3½ million tonnes as a contract for deliveries from the United States ends, but the CEGB is keen to maintain its contract for coal from Australia.

But Sir Derek told the Coal *Industry Society that he hoped* that with the support of government and the electricity authorities it would be possible to switch gradually from imports to home-produced supplies.

Reduction of imports of nearly 8 million tonnes in total is one of the main demands of the National Union of Mineworkers to reduce the financial pressure on the coal industry *and to prevent a programme* of accelerated pit closures.

Miners threatened to call a strike ballot and some areas took unofficial action after the coal board introduced a programme of 23 pit closures last month to ease the effects of the recession.

This plan was withdrawn as the Government indicated that it was prepared to ease the constraints on the industry imposed by cash limits and the 1980 Coal Act.

Sir Derek said yesterday that he was pleased the Government *had recognized* the need for a change in the board's financial base to create the conditions for future expansion.

With Government approval the board had set up a working party with the unions.

MPs to question BL chief on cash plans

By Edward Townsend

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of BL, is to appear before a Commons committee on Thursday to explain the *company's financial plans*. The hearing will take place two weeks ahead of the company's expected announcement of a £400m loss for 1980.

The all-party Industry and Trade Committee will question Sir Michael on BL's four-year corporate plan which is being financed for the first two years with £990m of public money.

The BL board has said already that a further £150m will be needed to fund developments in 1983 and 1984 and MPs will want to know from Sir Michael whether he expects *this sum to come from government or private sector sources.*

BL's results for 1980 are expected to be disclosed on March 20. The losses follow a deficit of £122.2m in 1979 and a profit of £1.7m in 1978. BL has told the Government that it expects to break even in 1983 and become profitable the following year.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, told the committee two weeks ago that the Government was "appalled" at the cost to the taxpayer of funding BL. It was hoped that the company would raise *future finance from depreciation*, profits, the private sector and from collaboration deals with other motor companies.

He considered that questions relating to BL's management and future marketing plans should be addressed to Sir Michael.

The chairman probably will tell MPs that the company's financial estimates for last year were disrupted by the continuing high sterling exchange rate, which had hit export sales, and by high interest rates. The latter are thought to have cost *BL about £100m last year.*

Technology News

Europe protest over spacecraft cancellation

The European Space Agency (ESA) has protested strongly to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the decision to cancel an American spacecraft which was to have formed part of a collaborative two-spacecraft project.

Planned launch date for the project, known as the International Solar Polar Mission (ISPM) was 1985. Cancellation of the satellite was attributed by NASA officials last week to severe spending cuts imposed on NASA in the preparation of the Reagan Administration's federal budget.

At a joint meeting, officials of the European agency protested that the cancellation, which was made without consultation, was a unilateral breach of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. The cancellation was therefore unacceptable to ESA, which requested full restoration of the programme to its original level.

Unilateral actions of this kind, ESA stressed, would be detrimental to future space cooperation between Europe and the United States.

As a result of the cancellation, European scientists from about 17 research institutes who were supplying experiments for the NASA spacecraft would be unable to fly them. The experiments were already in an advanced stage of development; more than half the total costs had been committed and so would be lost without corresponding scientific return.

ESA's board of management resolved to take "immediate and strong action". This has included asking all ESA member states to protest against the decision through their ambassadors in Washington. The agency is now awaiting the outcome of this.

The second satellite in the project is being built by a European industrial consortium led by Dornier of West Germany. The aim of the coordinated flights is that the two craft would obtain complementary scientific information about the sun.

Cutting through 13mm steel plate with an abrasive-carrying water jet at Cranfield.

Steel cutting in emergencies

Significant advances in water-jet cutting and cleaning technology have been disclosed in the annual report of the British Hydromechanics Research Association (BHRA) at Cran*field. These include the development* of an emergency jet-cutting system for North Sea oil and gas production platforms.

This project is being carried out by BHRA for British Petroleum. The aim was to design a system which could be used to gain access to closed areas on platforms in an emergency, and which would also cut debris to assist in its removal.

This steel-cutting system will form part of the standard equipment on board an emergency *support* vessel.

The technique which BHRA is applying for this task has been developed with support from the National Research Development Corporation. It involves the mixing of cheap abrasives in a water jet which can then be used to cut hard *materials at pressures which are* not excessive.

Using this method, 13mm (about half an inch) thick mild steel plate has been cut at speeds greater than 100mm per minute, at a pressure of 690 bar. Tests have indicated that a 50 per cent increase in pressure should enable twice the thickness of material to be cut, assuming a fixed rate of traverse.

To reduce the risk of the abrasive particles generating sparks during the cutting process, the abrasive is supplied to the cutting head already thoroughly wetted in the form of a slurry. The safe operation of the head has been checked in explosive atmospheres of *hydrogen/air and methane/air* in a recent series of trials.

As well as steel, these trials included cutting tests on a sandstone known to produce dangerous sparks when cut by conventional mechanical means.

No ignition of the gas occurred during cutting with the abrasive water jet.

Carbon fibres for Airbus

A demonstration Airbus Industrie A300 aircraft is now flying with a rudder made of carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) in place of the standard light-alloy structure. Measuring over eight metres long and two metres wide, the new rudder is the largest single carbon-fibre element undergoing trials on the aircraft at present.

Its weight-saving over the conventional metal rudder is 45kg or about 20 per cent. Performance of the unit is being studied in a programme of flight tests, and a second composite rudder is expected to begin in-service testing on a Lufthansa A300 next month.

The use of such elements is part of a weight-saving programme on A310 and A300 airbus aircraft aimed at achieving a higher payload.

Kenneth Owen

French-style loan plan urged for small firms

By Peter Hill

The *Government* is being urged to consider deploying a loan scheme directed at small businesses modelled on a highly successful scheme developed in France.

Sir Keith Joseph and other ministers have been asked to consider introducing the scheme as the major feature of its attempts to stimulate small business investment and growth.

A number of other EEC countries are considering similar schemes and consideration of a similar venture is being studied by the Reagan Administration in the United States.

The French scheme is designed to provide assistance to industrial and commercial companies whose annual turnover *does not exceed £35m and* which employ up to 500 workers. Loans are issued through Credit National with a minimum life of 15 years and a maximum of 20.

The scheme is directed especially at developing new products, markets, techniques and the provision of new jobs in areas of high unemployment. *The method used in France is* to subordinate the Government loan to rank after all other creditors, and thus place it alongside all other shareholders in a company.

There are repayment holidays —of up to five years—and an initially low interest rate.

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of BSC (Industry) the corporation's job creation subsidiary, *which faces an enormous task* in promoting the attraction of new industries to areas where the BSC is running down its activities, said yesterday that over the last two years the *French Government* had provided £80m in participative loans through Credit National to companies in the main French industrial areas.

Sir Charles has suggested to ministers that if the scheme was adopted in the United Kingdom it could be described as the subordinated loan scheme with loans being issued by the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, out of their existing financial allocations.

Funding for the assisted areas of England would be made by *another agency, possibly* the National Enterprise Board.

He said: "The scheme would not require additional financial provision and it would not replace existing grant schemes. The subordinated loan is not intended as a subsidy but as a financial instrument in its own right".

The loan *would constitute* a cumulative redeemable preference share and it would offer some competition to banks and other City institutions in their growing plans for capital investment in small companies.

Sir Charles has suggested that the use of subordinated loans should be restricted to development areas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The affair of the Lloyd's Bill

From Lord Napier and Ettrick

Sir, The chairman of Lloyd's, Mr Peter Green, has recently written to all the underwriting members of Lloyd's seeking, inter alia, to justify the inclu*sion of Clause 11 (the legal im*munity clause), in the Private Bill shortly to be considered by Parliament.

I was a member of the Sasse Syndicate No. 762 at Lloyd's. Mr Green has publicly admitted that "grave irregularities had occurred in the affairs of this syndicate", and hence the settlement made by Lloyd's. It has been put about in certain sections of the press that this settlement was some kind of rescue operation. It was, of course, nothing of the sort. It was a settlement, offered at the instigation of Lloyd's, out of court. It was accepted by the names concerned, thus saving Lloyd's from the appalling embarrassment of the whole fiasco coming out *in open court*—which it would have done, no doubt causing irreparable damage to the good name of Lloyd's throughout the world.

As part of the settlement over £6 million was left as "bad underwriting", and this was readily accepted by the one hundred odd names on this particular syndicate. None of us denied the principle of unlimited liability; what the litigants in the Sasse case were questioning was how much of a loss in excess of £21 million was there legal liability?

Lloyd's are now putting forward the argument that the proposed new Bill was approved at an extraordinary general meeting of the members in the *Albert Hall* last November by some 99.57 per cent. What was agreed at that meeting, which I attended, was the principle of a new Bill to give Lloyd's powers to better order its own affairs. The details of the Bill were not disclosed until some time later.

I do not believe that any future disgruntled name could ever sue the committee *simply* for bad underwriting. Lloyd's could only be sued if they had been in breach of their duties, either statutory or contractual, *owed to* the name. If Lloyd's have behaved properly they have nothing to fear in the courts. On the contrary, they would be vindicated. Of course the position would be different if in fact they have behaved improperly.

It seems to many of us that Lloyd's are now seeking to place themselves above the law. Should this come to pass, then I believe it would be prudent for every name to reconsider his or her own position most carefully with a view to deciding whether they *wish* to continue as underwriting members of Lloyd's,—and it is, after all, a fact that without the financial backing of the external names, Lloyd's would cease to function.

I am, etc,
NAPIER & ETTRICK,
House of Lords.
February 26.

From Mr David Charlesworth

Sir, Further to your Business Diary profile of Lloyd's of London, I write as an ordinary non-working "external" member to record some statistics that might put some current matters in perspective.

The proposal to present the Bill to Parliament, following the Fisher report, was approved at an extraordinary general meeting of all members by 13,219 votes for and 57 against.

The association of which Lady Middleton is chairman represents only some 200 external members, three-quarters of which presumably voted for the Bill in its original form. The majority of the active members of her committee are new members of Lloyd's—in fact the secretary only started underwriting last month. Lloyd's accounts are held open for three years to meet claims, and there is a further delay whilst payments are made and tax matters dealt with—it is therefore five years after election that a member has seen a complete cycle of events.

That Parliament is supreme is surely accepted by all at Lloyd's, but MPs should note that the so-called body representing external names has only a *membership* of 1 per cent of such names, and that 99.7 per cent of all members voted for the Bill and that the overwhelming majority of all members support the present chairman of Lloyd's, Mr Peter Green, and his council.

I remain, Sir,
DAVID CHARLESWORTH,
4 Shaftesbury Mews,
Stratford Road,
London, W8 6QR.
February 25.

Gas bill complaints

From Mr Raymond J. Hill

Sir, The British Union of Social Workers feels that the *decision of the Gas Board* to impose standing charges on the users of gas meters is yet another blow against the most vulnerable members of our society, and that this is another example of Government interference in the running of nationalized industries specifically designed to kill off those who are likely to make demands upon other services.

The imposition of this charge could mean the difference for the elderly on a fixed income between adequate heating and death from hypothermia.

We in the British Union of Social Workers feel that we must protest against this shortsighted action.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND J. HILL,
General Secretary,
British Union of Social Workers,
5 Sydney Road,
Haringey,
London, N8.
February 19.

From Mr J. W. Richards

Sir, The "robbery" of the gas standing charge referred to by your correspondents, and the anomaly which enables it to be avoided by the installation of a coin meter, pales into insignificance beside the extortion practised by the *British Gas* Corporation in applying their charges for certain domestic premises.

I am one of a cooperative of six flat owners whose annual gas bill is of the order of £2,000 a year.

One meter serves all flats and we share the bill.

Charges to us are made at the *commercial rate of 26.1p per* therm. A complaint to North Thames Gas that we should be charged at the domestic rate (24.6p for the first 52 therms and 21.2p thereafter) elicited this reply,

". . . the British Gas Corporation specify that the 'gas supplied under the Domestic Credit Tariff may be used only in a private residence not subdivided into separately occupied parts' and your premises do not qualify for this tariff."

A formal request to the chairman of the British Gas Corporation for an *explanation of this* irrational and iniquitous ruling remains unanswered.

J. W. RICHARDS,
17 Palace Gate,
London, W8.
February 26.

Barclays procedures

From Mr Richard G. Hunt

Sir, Mr Ellis's experience is probably not unusual. Only a few days ago I entered a branch of Barclays Bank to make a substantial withdrawal from Barclaycard. *I expected* the branch to telephone for authorization. Almost before I had signed the voucher, however, I was asked by the cashier for supporting identification. I declined, stating that the card and my signature were quite sufficient. After a few minutes on the 'phone to Barclaycard Centre, the cashier returned requesting my address and other information. Reluctantly I produced a current driving licence, which was taken away to the telephone. The cashier came back again and asked me what address the centre had on their records, as if the evidence *of the driving licence were in*sufficient.

I formed the distinct impression that had I refused to provide answers to this interrogation the transaction would not have been authorized notwithstanding availability within my credit limit. I advised the cashier that it was monstrous and an affront to my integrity, and proceeded to telephone Barclaycard myself. A supervisor indicated that this was a routine security measure applicable to all transactions such as mine where the customer was not known to the branch. I believe that any self-respecting fraudster would not be deterred by this "routine" procedure. I believe also that had I gone to several branches with a transaction of, say, £25 at each I could possibly have achieved my aim, maybe even without telephoned authorization.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD G. HUNT,
45 Cumberland Road,
Bromley,
Kent, BR2 0PL.
February 19.

Looking back in amazement

From Mr R. Williams

Sir, The debate continues on how the revenues from North Sea oil should be spent to the best advantage—let us hope that a sensible and acceptable solution is soon reached.

Meanwhile, I suggest that posterity *will look back on* this period in our history with amazement and disbelief—disbelief that the Government have failed to utilize this fantastic piece of good fortune for the benefit of our own people and our industry, by accepting a lower level of taxation on oil and gas for United Kingdom consumption and passing on the immense benefits of lower prices to the inhabitants of these islands, as the Americans have done for decades.

Not only would we now be enjoying a considerably lower level of inflation, but our industry would be in much better shape, and *much more com*petitive as a result of lower costs and lower prices.

Yours faithfully,
REG WILLIAMS,
Pinetrees,
North Road West,
Hythe,
Kent.
February 16.

Wealth and unity

From Mr B. Barker

Sir, This institute is a good example of the professional institutions to which the chairman, Southern Electricity, referred (February 20) in his appeal for a closer understanding between the public and private sectors of the economy based on their interdependence.

Seventy per cent of chartered secretaries work in the private sector and thirty per cent in the public. At our branch meetings and conferences the health *service administrator* rubs shoulders with the company secretary and the electricity board administrator with his opposite number in the industrial company which is his customer. This is one of the many advantages of being professionally qualified.

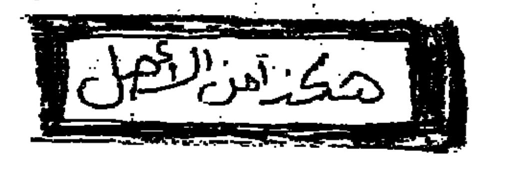
In 1980 our qualification was recognized in the Companies Act as being *appropriate* for the secretary of a public limited company; in 1981 we are being recognized as providing the appropriate qualification for administration in local government.

We firmly support Mr Wedgwood in his view that bridges need to be built and maintained between the sectors. Why *should we be so concerned* about ownership? What matters is cost effective performance leading to the creation of wealth and jobs. Envious sniping of one at the other can only distract and damage.

At any rate, chartered secretaries are the same wherever they are employed—and so are other professional people.

We accept the aims which Mr Wedgwood has described and the responsibility which follows from that acceptance.

Yours faithfully,
B. BARKER,
Secretary and Chief Executive,
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators,
16 Park Crescent, London, W1N



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Can Fisons shape its own destiny?

Fisons' old strategy of using the fertilizer and scientific equipment divisions as cash generators for pharmaceutical and agrochemical expansion is in tatters. Not for the first time in the past fifteen years the group is groping for a new corporate direction. Even the agrochemical link-up with Boots smacks of mortgaging the heavy research and development spending here.

In its present straitened circumstances Fisons is having to take a much closer look at itself. It is now trying its damnedest to convince the City that outside the tripartite evils of sterling, interest rates and the recession, which have undoubtedly dogged it over the past two years, it can still do something to shape its own destiny.

So the emphasis is being put on the recovery programme, moves away from the high break-even commodity cycle into higher margin speciality products, joint ventures in horticulture and rationalization in fertilizers. Even in pharmaceuticals Fisons is now pointing to the inherent growth prospects for Intal after the shock of the recent loss of its promising new Proxicromil drug.

Fisons was also doing its level best yesterday to put a brave face on the much worse than expected collapse in pretax profits with the £1.5m second half loss pulling them down from £17.3m to a meagre £3.8m.

After their recent vertiginous fall, the shares—a thin and difficult market at the best of times—gained 12p to 140p on relief that the company's heart is still beating, that the final dividend has been only cut from 13.7p to 4.4p gross and not passed altogether and the vague takeover rumours, although few can see what a bidder would now find attractive.

Apart from pharmaceuticals, where trading profits were almost level pegging despite a £2m currency loss and squeezed margins, all divisions had a terrible second half. Tough competition also hit agrochemicals although the speciality products like Nortron fared better.

The £4m turnround to trading losses of £1.1m explains the urgent surgery taken in fertilizers although as in horticulture its problems were exacerbated by the absence of the usual seasonal pick up in demand as high interest rates hurt farmers and distributors.

And in scientific equipment the cutback in public spending meant an even worse second than first half. The upshot was a 31 per cent fall in trading profits to £16.4m and with the unusual debt profile almost doubling interest charges to £12.6m, higher tax as profits overseas could not be offset and £11.8m of extraordinaries from the fertilizer closures the attributable loss was a thumping £16.8m, and the current cost pretax loss around £12m.

All the same Fisons still seems remarkably relaxed about its balance sheet with last year's cash outflow, thanks to the £8m or so from Boots and tight control of working capital, only £2.6m.

At this stage it is impossible to say how gearing will look since it is not known how the agrochemicals business, with its hefty debt burden, will be treated in the balance sheet. The cash outflow from the redundancies will be another £8m this year but the group seems confident this will be offset by operating savings. Cash conservation will hamper Fisons for at least the next year and in the meantime a 9.3 per cent yield is not enough to outweigh all the uncertainties.

Royal Insurance

Better than forecast

Beating its December rights issue forecast Royal Insurance has turned in full-year pretax profits down less than 7 per cent to £122.5m. That compares favourably with the 25 per cent setback reported by Commercial Union last week and reflects Royal's more cautious stance in the face of increasing competition.

But after a fourth quarter in which profits plunged almost 25 per cent to just over £30m, Royal is still staring into an underwriting abyss in most territories. Losses widened from £15m to £24m in Canada and from £4m to £8.5m in Australia to outstrip investment income in both those territories.

And as in the United States where Royal has fared better than average with an underwriting deficit almost doubling to £16m on a relatively low operating ratio of 102.4 per cent, the group sees only worsening conditions for the majority of the current year.

All of which, at first glance, holds out little hope of better things to come for loyal shareholders who stumped up £116m for new capital in December to enable Royal to get back on an expansionary tack after several years of virtually static premium inflow.

But Royal with the new cash tucked away in short and medium-dated gilts and a solvency ratio up 15½ points at 62.5 per cent — partly as a result of its hitherto cautious stance on new business—is taking a noticeably cautious line on expansion.

The knowledge that Royal is not going to do anything rash in its attempts to rebuild market share might perversely put it in the van of any further composite rally on hopes of a significant underwriting recovery in 1982. With cash in the bank Royal can clearly choose when to attack if it sniffs recovery.

The worry of course is that recovery could still be many moons away particularly in the United States where a buoyant equity market is keeping the competition raging.

Boosted by the rights funds and a stronger dollar Royal could push profits up to between £125m and £130m this time but this would leave little scope for a further significant dividend increase. Last time's 11.6 per cent increase leaves the payment under twice covered, and the shares unchanged at 388p to yield 8.8 per cent are well up with recovery hopes.

Special steel

Another casualty

Steel-making in Sheffield has been declining for years, and inevitably the recession has speeded up the process.

Johnson & Firth Brown and Aurora have recently announced large cutbacks; Neepsend seems likely to withdraw completely from steel melting and re-rolling.

Unfortunately it expanded its steel activities in the late 1970s and has apparently subsidized this side of the business for some time from its more profitable activities.

Some of Neepsend's plant was none too modern and it has looked increasingly out on a limb ever since Aurora emerged as the dominant force in high speed and tool steels —a fiercely competitive sector anyway because of the incessant flow of low-cost imports which have steadily taken a larger share of the United Kingdom's market.

Neepsend's steel activities are the main culprits behind the turnround from pretax profits of £810,000 to losses of £1.66m in the six months to September 30— the result of high fixed overheads combined with the dramatic loss of volume which is indicated by the one-third drop in group sales to £11.7m.

Withdrawal from steel-making would leave Neepsend free to concentrate on more profitable activities such as ferro-alloys—although the drop in molybdenum prices has probably meant poorer results here, too—and its castings and toolmaking activities.

● *With dollar interest rates turning firmer, partly on disappointment with last week's US money supply figures, the US currency had a good day on foreign exchanges yesterday.*

In part, it was the dollar's general strength that lay behind the further fall in sterling—down to $2.1655 at one stage. But that was not, of course, the whole explanation: sterling continues to have a large question-mark hanging over it ahead of the Budget.

Meanwhile, the shortage in the discount markets was estimated in some quarters to have topped £1,000m, largely reflecting the payment of Petroleum Revenue Tax. For only the second time since last November's change of approach in money market tactics, the Bank of England found itself relieving the shortage by means other than buying in paper.

Very large sums of money were lent to the houses at MLR for periods of seven and eight days. The temporary reduction in the banks' minimum reserve asset ratio clearly prevented a total seizure in the inter-bank market. Even so, the overnight rate still touched 50 per cent at one point and one-week money was trading above 17 per cent.

Hugh Stephenson

Straight into a brick wall again

All governments have bad patches during each Parliament, usually somewhere about mid-term. If there was at present any kind of coherent Opposition, this Government's present bad patch would be very bad indeed.

As it is, it will take an uncharacteristically rousing performance by the Chancellor in his Budget speech next Tuesday to convince the nation that all is well and that we are still firmly on the track of a coherent medium-term financial strategy.

The question, however, that presses forward and gets no convincing answer is how can it be that what has come to pass is a surprise to the Government. After all, all the main elements could have been and indeed were predicted by those outside the corridors of power. This is not the usual game of being wise after the event. There is sufficient chapter and verse of published material and forecasts to sustain the charge.

Item: the arguments in favour of reducing the previous swingeing marginal rates of personal income tax were overwhelmingly strong, but how could anyone actually believe that the cuts made in the 1979 Budget would have a measurable effect on the productivity and growth rate of the British economy within the short time-scale of a year or two?

Item: how could anybody have based a central part of the Budget and public spending plans on the assumption that nationalized industries as a whole could be moved from deficit into surplus by a financing improvement of £2,300m between 1980 and 1983, when it is clear that the capital investment programmes of so many of the nationalized industries need to rise?

Item: how was it possible to accept commitments to higher pay for the armed forces, the police and the firemen and accept the workings of the Clegg commission in principle without realizing that there would be a public sector pay explosion in the figures that emerged during 1980?

Item: how was it possible that anyone could convince themselves that in the context of a complex and sophisticated economy and financial system, all would come right with a lag of, say, eighteen months to two years simply by locking the economy on to a single auto-pilot called sterling M3?

Item: in the light of 20 years of experience with the present system of public expenditure control and after four years of continual public spending reduction exercises, how could anyone believe that it was only a matter of political will to reduce the inherent upward pressures for more spending, especially in an administration that was committed to substantial real increases from the start for the armed forces and for law and order services?

The catalogue above is depressing precisely because when Mrs Thatcher came to No 10, whatever one might have thought of particular elements of her policy, she held out the promise that she was going to break and then reverse the defeated and defeatist trend of British public affairs throughout the postwar period.

With the miners, British Leyland, British Steel, a 6 per cent pay norm for the public sector, public spending still rising, the borrowing requirement running 60 per cent above forecast, and unemployment rising faster than inflation is coming down, the script at mid-term has an uncomfortably familiar ring.

In looking for an answer to the question why this Government, like all others before it, appears genuinely surprised when they ... into a well marked brick wal., one ...iven to the uncomfortable conclusi... that the fault must lie somewhere ...the heart of our system of governm...

Whatever the good intent... of an incoming government, once ... power the machine smothers any att...t to generate strategic thinking. It ... no part of the official machine's fun...on to say: "Look, we know you are c...mitted to Clegg, but unless you get o... of it now you will have real trouble in a year's time". That is a political function that must be exercised close to the Prime Minister.

Equally, a strategic political plan for a government needs to recognize that the really difficult problems are multidimensional and cannot by their nature be solved by one-dimensional solutions.

Again this is not a function that can be performed by a busy departmental minister, or even by a Prime Minister no matter how phenomenally industrious. Every government needs its senior Minister for Avoiding Basic Mistakes. This one seems to need it more than most.

Will the Budget bring a new redundancy deal?

Margaret Stone

With unemployment predicted to rise to three million by the end of the year, like it or not redundancy is a subject with which more and more of us will have to come to terms. But wait until after the Budget before mugging up on the arcane and complicated rules which govern golden handshakes.

It is widely expected, and hoped, that Sir Geoffrey will announce alterations to the tax treatment of redundancy payment which will eliminate not only the complexity but also the artificiality of the present system. Under the present rules the timing of the handshake is almost more important than the money itself.

How many people faced with the prospect of claiming more than £10,000 for loss of office are aware that under the law as it now stands, it is vitally important to have that cheque before the end of the tax year? To retain the same tax advantages on post-April 6 payments the newly redundant would have to consider remaining out of work for the rest of the fiscal year 1981-82.

For any government which is committed to the idea of job mobility, this consequence is as wrong as it is absurd. In August 1979 the Inland Revenue issued a consultative document *Payments on termination of employment*. The Revenue's own recommendations have broadly met with approval from tax consultants who specialize in this field.

The existing arrangements suffer from two important defects. The first is the "top-slicing relief" which although designed to prevent an individual paying tax at excessively high marginal rates on the exceptional amount of income received in redundancy year, can distort the tax picture on any new income received that year.

The other problem is that the original dividing line between *compensation for loss of office* and *ex gratia* payments (which are taxed in a different way) has become blurred and a fallow ground for tax avoidance tactics. The need for *ex gratia* payments, originally designed for those nearing retirement without adequate pension entitlement, is fading.

With a conventional compensation for loss of office payment, the first £10,000 is not subject to tax; with an *ex gratia* payment, the tongue-twisting standard capital superannuation benefit (SCSB) can come into play to provide the outgoing employee with a tax free lump sum in excess of £10,000.

(The SCSB is based on the last three years' salary, divided by 20, but minus any cash commutation benefit—which can be a much as 1½ times salary—from the company pension scheme.)

The Revenue believes that there is no good reason for maintaining this distinction, with all the shifts and turns that employees facing redundancy resort to in getting part of their redundancy classified as loss of office and the other part of *ex gratia*.

But if the distinction is withdrawn it puts an even greater onus on the Revenue to do something about the £10,000 tax free threshold. Although the consultative document did not itemize what a new threshold could be, it is clear from the paper that a substantial increase in the £10,000 level coupled wih a new method of taxing the outstanding balance would remove most of the iniquities of the present arrangement.

Tax-slicing relief on the balance over £10,000 divides the redundancy payment by six; tax is calculated on this sum—plus any income received subsequently, be it investment income from redundancy proceeds or earnings from a new job; the tax due is then multiplied by six. Little or no tax will be paid on redundancy payments up to £22,000—provided that another job is not taken during the remainder of the tax year.

Ironically, people with much bigger handshakes and good tax advisers may at present be better off than the average steelworker. For there is little doubt that taxation of golden handshakes is, in some circles, regarded (like the old estate duty) as a voluntary tax.

A man with a £40,000 pay-off will, with top-slicing, pay very little tax on the balance of £30,000 once his married man's allowance, mortgage interest relief, trading losses, leasing arrangements or first-year allowances on a new business have been deducted to arrive at a redundancy sum which is actually subject to tax.

So the most likely outcome in the Budget is hat the threshold will be raised to either £15,000 or optimistically £20,000 and that instead of top-slicing, half the balance will be subject to tax, regardless of years of service. Additionally, a modest sum, *say* £500, could be added to the threshold for each year of service.

Such a system would be simpler for everyone, taxmen included, to understand; by making timing irrelevant, it would prevent the unsuspecting from falling into the second job trap; and it would reduce the scope for tax avoidance. Once over the threshold everyone would have to pay some tax on their redundancy payments, but on extra income received that financial year tax would no longer have to be paid at the rate of 180 per cent.

TOP-SLICING RELIEF AND TIMING

		£
Gross redundancy pay		22,000
Tax free		10,000
Taxable sum		12,000 ÷ 6
	=	2,000

	Termination—March £	Termination—January £
Other income	—	1,800*
Investment income	—	345*
One sixth	2,000	2,000
Total income	2,000	4,145
Less married man's allowance	2,145	2,145
Taxable income	—	2,000
Tax at 30%	—	600
Tax x 6	—	3,600
Total tax payable	—	3,600

* Assuming new job at £7,200 pa and investment of lump sum.
As tax of £644 will also be payable on the income of £2,145, the total tax bill will be £4,244.

A testing time for shareholders

A long list of blue chip companies—large industrial groups which have become stock market institutions—have now cut their dividends, starting with Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds last November and continuing through Courtaulds and Metal Box to Fisons. Profits have either plunged or given way to losses. ICI was only the latest to report a cut dividend last Thursday.

The next few months will test the nerves of many shareholders, both institutional and private, as the company reporting season gets into its stride. There is a danger that the damage they will report will give the public an impression of industry reeling rather than recovering. That impression would be wrong. It should be remembered that the companies will be reporting on months already past. It is their ability to profit from the future that will count.

The industrial sample used by stockbrokers Phillips & Drew shows that business was still working flat out in the first three months of last year and profits actually rose by 8 per cent.

In the second quarter they slipped by 14 per cent. But in the final three months of last year the annual rate of decline had reached 49 per cent. The year on year decline was 20 per cent.

Naturally this sequence becomes more scrappy as it becomes more recent. Many industrial companies have still to report on their final quarter. But the trend is clear. As the broker points out, turnover last year probably rose by 10 per cent. If so, the average pre-tax margin in 1980 narrowed from 7 per cent to 5 per cent.

Clearly profits are in danger of vanishing altogether if trade gets only a little worse, but by the same token they could jump just as strongly if things got better.

But most companies did manage to make profits last year. Imperial Chemical Industries is not a typical industrial group. It is far larger and more diversified than any other chemical concern in the country—companies like Fisons, Laporte and BOC International are specialists by comparison—and the profits of chemical companies swing more wildly than those of industry in general.

Even so some general themes stand out. Industry worked flat out as last year began but after that the drop in demand was steep which forced manufacturers and distributors to unload stocks to preserve cash positions.

According to broker de Zoete & Bevan the fall in stocks reflected nearly three-fifths of the downturn in gross domestic product in the first half year. As it happened stocks were exceptionally high in 1979 when industry deliberately built them up to get tax relief before running them down again. So it was brutal when it came. High interest rates made matters worse.

There are several reasons why company profits should grow this year. If minimum lending rate falls to 11 per cent, interest charges should drop by one third. If, as seems likely, companies wrote off their reorganization and redundancy costs last year profits this year will catapult by their simple omission.

So far industry has shed one in nine workers during the recession. Assuming a cut in labour force of one tenth, Phillips & Drew calculate that "with wage costs about 30 per cent of sales and the average pretax margin in the United Kingdom probably less than 5 per cent, a cutback of this size increases pretax profits by more than 60 per cent".

Exactly when economic activity will start to revive will depend as much as anything on when industry is cofident enough to rebuild stocks. Stockbroker Wood, Mackenzie sees destocking tailing away this year and restocking getting under way next; de Zoete & Bevan expects stock building to start again shortly.

The Budget is to come which may cut industrial costs directly through a reduction in national insurance contributions, as well as indirectly through a cut in MLR. And a fall in the pound makes exporting and overseas earnings more profitable.

With inflation still slowing down for several months companies will this year be well placed to restore inflation-adjusted as well as historic or "money" profits. The outlook, then, is for recovery this year and quite possibly a boom in 1982 which is why the stock market is ignoring the worst pounding profits have taken since the end of the last war.

Peter Wainwright

Business Diary: Hearth and home ● Lydian mode

Anybody want some fire-blackened bricks which, put back together, could be described as the fireplace in which started the Great Fire of London?

This is an offer from Rodney Leach, the general manager of Trade Development Bank, due to move from its present City premises in Aldermanbury to a new offices being built in Pudding Lane close by the Monument which commemorates the Great Fire.

Pudding Lane is where the Great Fire is thought to have started in 1666. Leach, who both read and taught classics at Oxford, provided not only the permission, but with the City Corporation, the funds for the Monument site to be excavated by the Museum of London.

The problem is that the museum is already chock-a-block with treasures from the site, whose Roman, Saxon, Medieval and other finds have been described by dig supervisor Gustaf Milne as "a rich archaeological sequence unparalleled on any other London site".

Leach, classicist though he is, wonders whether as a banker it might be a bit much to reerect in TDB's foyer a display which implies "Your whole investment could go up in smoke".

Business Diary, however, says Leach and TDB should say "Reerect and be damned!" at the Monument site, and let the half of the space the bank does not want to the 28 firms in the London commercial telephone directory boasting the name "Phoenix".

For the first time a woman has been appointed to the board of one of Hongkong's leading Hongs (leading business firms) —the Swire Group.

She is Lydia Dunn (right), who last year was also the first woman to be appointed to the council of the British-founded Trade Policy Research Centre.

Miss Dunn is the daughter of a former tea merchant in China who became a printer and trader in Hongkong. She is already managing director of Swire and Maclaine and a director of John Swire—both members of the Swire Group. She graduated with a degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley in 1963.

She set a precedent in 1970 when she was the first woman and the youngest person to become export manager of Swire and Maclaine, the trading arm of the parent company.

The Trade Policy Research Centre sought her out after an attack on developed countries for restricting imports from Hongkong and other developing countries which she made at the International Conference on Trade in Textiles and Clothing in Brussels last May. Miss Dunn is the centre's first Asian as well as firt woman councillor.

As a member of the financial committee of the Legislative Council which governs Hongkong, she is known for her vigorous opinions, particularly that there should be "less" rather than more government.

"Civil servants are efficient administrators within the constraints of the public service and they develop a knack of minimizing the influence of those constraints or avoiding them", she has argued.

"But when they have to manage enterprises on a commercial basis they are caught between civil service regulations and attitudes on the one hand and the dictates of business principles on the other." The result is often unsatisfactory.

Not surprisingly, she is often referred to as "Hongkong's Mrs Thatcher", which, in Hongkong at least, remains a compliment.

● The staff of *The Observer* may be as perplexed at being unexpectedly taken over as they are about George Outram, their new owner. It is not a name to conjure with among the press baronetcy but a part of Tiny Rowland's empire not new to takeover battles.

In 1964 Outram, publisher of the *Glasgow Herald* and *Evening Times*, was defended by Lord Fraser of Allender, late father of Sir Hugh Fraser, in a bitter struggle against the first Lord Thomson of Fleet, former owner of *The Times*.

Lord Fraser won but Outram, until then independent, became a subsidiary of Scottish and Universal Investments (Suits), which two years ago fell to Lonrho.

Outram, the man, who flourished between 1834 and 1856, was the third editor of the *Glasgow Herald*. He was a lawyer and poet. A portrait of old George hangs in the *Glasgow Herald* boardroom. In it George is seen in a Napoleonic pose, reinterpreted, in view of recent events by staff as merely reaching for his wallet.

● Carrefour Hypermarkets claims to have found the Office of Fair Trading being unfair both to traders and to the public. The nub of the complaint is that in a recent leaflet entitled *There's more to credit than just HP*, the OFT ignored interest-free credit schemes which Carrefour, among others, operates.

The OFT leaflet attempted to explain the various forms of credit available and to help consumers compare their cost. It described bank credit cards as "top of the pops". Carrefour says its interest free credit gives the public a much better deal.

● Three weeks this Sunday a British Airways Super VC-10 is due to touch down at Heathrow from Dar-es-Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Larnaca.

So what, I hear you say. So this, I tell you, is the last scheduled flight of the 29 VC-10s in BA service (they began to come in 17 years ago).

The VC-10s, well known to any business traveller, are the subject of a forthcoming book by BA computorbod Martin Hedley. If you have any VC-10 tales, let him know by way of 10th floor, TBC, Heathrow S22.

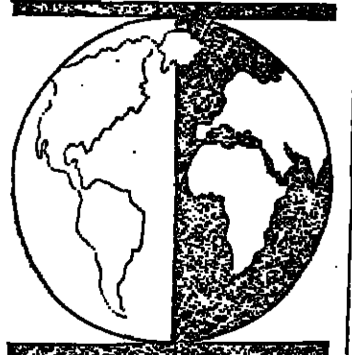
● Unaccustomed though it is to public jocularity, the Japanese government is having a discreet laugh at recent figures from the International Labour Organization.

The ILO, a United Nations body, has found in a recent study that the Japanese now work fewer hours than United Kingdom workers who are always complaining about unfair competition from Japanese workaholics.

In 1979, the ILO found, and Japan applauds, Japanese workers put in average of 40.7 hours a week, three hours and 20 minutes less than the Brits

Apropos my recent pieces on visiting cards, Denis MacShane of the International Metalworkers' Federation writes from Geneva to applaud the professionalism of Fritz Hauser, the West German labour attaché in Washington. Hauser's card bears on the reverse side a sentence showing it to be printed by "Union Druckerei, the printers of the German Unions, fully organized."

Ross Davies



Hongkong's reexports top £251m

Hongkong's vital reexport trade soared to a record HK$3,000m (£251.6m) last year, an increase of 50 per cent over 1979. China has become the number one market for Hongkong reexports and the number one source of reexports abroad via Hongkong.

Reexports to China rose from HK$1,310m in 1979 to HK$4,540m (an increase of 253 per cent) and its own exports via Hongkong from HK$5,660m to HK$8,390m, a 48 per cent increase.

The boom is a further indication of the importance of Hongkong to China and enhances the growing cooperation to mutual advantage between China and its former "colonial" neighbour.

US car sales

With showrooms brimming with unsold cars, United States manufacturers are cutting their first quarter production schedules again in an attempt to reduce stocks. Hopes are that inventories will be reduced to a point that even if sales nosedive after new rebates programmes end in mid-March, dealers will have room for cars assembled in March.

Swiss liquidity

Following the Swiss National Bank's latest discount and Lombard rate increases, banking liquidity in Switzerland rose strongly towards the end of February, and banking industry sources said the approach of the monthly settlement date appeared to outweigh other factors in influencing the activity.

Syria trade expands

Despite strong relations with the Soviet Union, Syria has been expanding its economic ties with the West. Dozens of European companies are involved in projects in Syria, and officials there are hoping that the volume of trade with the west will continue to expand.

Belgian deficit

M Marc Eyskens, Belgian finance minister, said that the public sector's financing needs this year were likely to climb to BFranc7,000m (£8.9m). Much of this would have to be met by foreign borrowings, and this would put further strains on Belgium's deteriorating balance of payments.

Shorter shifts at VW

Volkswagenwerk the West German car maker, said that it was planning to introduce short shifts at its transmission plant in Kassel, sometime in April. A spokesman said plans were to cut back work for about a week.

S Korea jobless

South Korea's unemployment rate averaged 5.2 per cent in 1980, the second worst level since 1967, when it stood at 6.2 per cent, the national bureau of statistics said. The number of jobless was 749,000 for 1980, up from 542,000 in the previous year.

$6,700m budget

China's budget deficit exceeded $6,700m (£3,004m) in 1980, the magazine *Peking Review* said. The Government's original estimate was for a deficit of $5,300m.

Citröen lay-offs

Peugeot's subsidiary Automobiles Citröen said that it plans an average two days of lay-offs at all its factories in March, affecting about 30,000 of its 54,000 workforce.

Incomes Data Services looks at public and private organizations

Defining changes in managers' pay

Incomes Data Services (IDS), the researchers specializing in pay and conditions of employment, yesterday launched a new service for those needing to pinpoint changes in management pay which IDS describes as "a jumble of contradictory information".

The first monthly report from IDS's new Top Pay Unit attacks suggestions that directors' salaries have risen nearly 40 per cent—while also letting in some light on top people's salaries at the Post Office, the National Coal Board and 13 organizations in both private and public sectors.

Average annual salary increases for directors are probably less than 20 per cent in most cases, according to the review. It dismisses as "far from conclusive" an analysis in a BBC *Money Programme* suggesting that increases in chairmen's and chief executives' salaries had been 39.9 per cent.

The BBC's sample of 50 top companies was small and selective, argues the review. It was based on data from annual reports and reflected total remuneration, including bonus payments, rather than just salaries. Given the source, with reporting time lags, the aggregate levels reported in 1980 would have reflected rises in 1979 when pay was recovering from a period of pay restraint.

Two more recent and extensive surveys suggested the IDS conclusion about the level of average salary increases. One—by Charterhouse—reported a median increase of 13.6 per cent.

But the review added: "Although good information is available on the levels of directors' pay, percentage increase figures are frequently suspect." There are many critical variables determining salaries, including types of directorship, the industry involved, profitability and especially the size of company.

The review's initial researches have thrown up more than 60 sources of surveys on salaries and benefits as well as information from government and other public sector areas. The data has proved of astonishing diversity, much of it suspect and non-comparable and in need of qualification, according to Mr Mark Layton, the review's managing editor who is also a director of IDS.

The review at first will be able to do only limited original research of its own, although analyses based on job advertising is a possibility. But a start has been made on tracking changes in management salaries at individual companies on which there are reports. These showed that in a number of cases managers received salary increases in line with shop floor rises. It is too early yet to see a pattern on such trends, Mr Layton said.

At the Post Office at the end of last year, for instance, the top management band had a 15.1 per cent rise compared with an arbitration award for other levels of between 20.6 per cent and 23.6 per cent.

At the National Coal Board, however, managers received almost the same rises as the mineworkers after the January settlement—9.73 per cent on salary scales and 13.2 per cent on bonus payments. But there had been downward pressure on management salaries previously, the review points out.

Top Pay Review, monthly by Incomes Data Services; £45 annual subscription.

Derek Harris

CEGB threat to halt coal supplies deal

By Our Energy Correspondent

Talks aimed at reducing the Central Electricity Generating Board's coal imports next year have started with the National Coal Board, Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, said yesterday.

The CEGB has given a warning that it would end its agreement to take 75 million tonnes from the NCB annually over five years if it were effectively prevented from importing coal.

Its imports next year are expected to fall from 5½ million tonnes to 3½ million tonnes as a contract for deliveries from the United States ends, but the CEGB is keen to maintain its contract for coal from Australia.

But Sir Derek told the Coal Industry Society that he hoped that with the support of government and the electricity authorities it would be possible to switch gradually from imports to home-produced supplies.

Reduction of imports of nearly 8 million tonnes in total is one of the main demands of the National Union of Mineworkers to reduce the financial pressure on the coal industry and to prevent a programme of accelerated pit closures.

Miners threatened to call a strike ballot and some areas took unofficial action after the coal board introduced a programme of 23 pit closures last month to ease the effects of the recession.

This plan was withdrawn as the Government indicated that it was prepared to ease the constraints on the industry imposed by cash limits and the 1980 Coal Act.

Sir Derek said yesterday that he was pleased the Government had recognized the need for a change in the board's financial base to create the conditions for future expansion.

With Government approval the board had set up a working party with the unions.

MPs to question BL chief on cash plans

By Edward Townsend

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of BL, is to appear before a Commons committee on Thursday to explain the company's financial plans. The hearing will take place two weeks ahead of the company's expected announcement of a £400m loss for 1980.

The all-party Industry and Trade Committee will question Sir Michael on BL's four-year corporate plan which is being financed for the first two years with £990m of public money.

The BL board has said already that a further £150m will be needed to fund developments in 1983 and 1984 and MPs will want to know from Sir Michael whether he expects this sum to come from government or private sector sources.

BL's results for 1980 are expected to be disclosed on March 20. The losses follow a deficit of £122.2m in 1979 and a profit of £1.7m in 1978. BL has told the Government that it expects to break even in 1983 and become profitable the following year.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, told the committee two weeks ago that the Government was "appalled" at the cost to the taxpayer of funding BL. It was hoped that the company would raise future finance from depreciation, profits, the private sector and from collaboration deals with other motor companies.

He considered that questions relating to BL's management and future marketing plans should be addressed to Sir Michael.

The chairman probably will tell MPs that the company's financial estimates for last year were disrupted by the continuing high sterling exchange rate, which had hit export sales, and by high interest rates. The latter are thought to have cost BL about £100m last year.

Technology News

Europe protest over spacecraft cancellation

The European Space Agency (ESA) has protested strongly to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the decision to cancel an American spacecraft which was to have formed part of a collaborative two-spacecraft project.

Planned launch date for the project, known as the International Solar Polar Mission (ISPM) was 1985. Cancellation of the satellite was attributed by NASA officials last week to severe spending cuts imposed on NASA in the preparation of the Reagan Administration's federal budget.

At a joint meeting, officials of the European agency protested that the cancellation, which was made without consultation, was a unilateral breach of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. The cancellation was therefore unacceptable to ESA, which requested full restoration of the programme to its original level.

Unilateral actions of this kind, ESA stressed, would be detrimental to future space cooperation between Europe and the United States.

As a result of the cancellation, European scientists from about 17 research institutes who were supplying experiments for the NASA spacecraft would be unable to fly them. The experiments were already in an advanced stage of development; more than half the total costs had been committed and so would be lost without corresponding scientific return.

ESA's board of management resolved to take "immediate and strong action". This has included asking all ESA member states to protest against the decision through their ambassadors in Washington. The agency is now awaiting the outcome of this.

The second satellite in the project is being built by a European industrial consortium led by Dornier of West Germany. The aim of the coordinated flights is that the two craft would obtain complementary scientific information about the sun.

Cutting through 13mm steel plate with an abrasive-carrying water jet at Cranfield.

Steel cutting in emergencies

Significant advances in water-jet cutting and cleaning technology have been disclosed in the annual report of the British Hydromechanics Research Association (BHRA) at Cranfield. These include the development of an emergency jet-cutting system for North Sea oil and gas production platforms.

This project is being carried out by BHRA for British Petroleum. The aim was to design a system which could be used to gain access to closed areas on platforms in an emergency, and which would also cut debris to assist in its removal.

This steel-cutting system will form part of the standard equipment on board an emergency support vessel.

The technique which BHRA is applying for this task has been developed with support from the National Research Development Corporation. It involves the mixing of cheap abrasives in a water jet which can then be used to cut hard materials at pressures which are not excessive.

Using this method, 13mm (about half an inch) thick mild steel plate has been cut at speeds greater than 100mm per minute, at a pressure of 690 bar. Tests have indicated that a 50 per cent increase in pressure should enable twice the thickness of material to be cut, assuming a fixed rate of traverse.

To reduce the risk of the abrasive particles generating sparks during the cutting process, the abrasive is supplied to the cutting head already thoroughly wetted in the form of a slurry. The safe operation of the head has been checked in explosive atmospheres of hydrogen/air and methane/air in a recent series of trials.

As well as steel, these trials included cutting tests on a sandstone known to produce dangerous sparks when cut by conventional mechanical means. No ignition of the gas occurred during cutting with the abrasive water jet.

Carbon fibres for Airbus

A demonstration Airbus Industrie A300 aircraft is now flying with a rudder made of carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) in place of the standard light-alloy structure. Measuring over eight metres long and two metres wide, the new rudder is the largest single carbon-fibre element undergoing trials on the aircraft at present.

Its weight-saving over the conventional metal rudder is 45kg or about 20 per cent. Performance of the unit is being studied in a programme of flight tests, and a second composite rudder is expected to begin in-service testing on a Lufthansa A300 next month.

The use of such elements is part of a weight-saving programme on A310 and A300 airbus aircraft aimed at achieving a higher payload.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The affair of the Lloyd's Bill

From Lord Napier and Ettrick

Sir, The chairman of Lloyd's, Mr Peter Green, has recently written to all the underwriting members of Lloyd's seeking, inter alia, to justify the inclusion of Clause 11 (the legal immunity clause), in the Private Bill shortly to be considered by Parliament.

I was a member of the Sasse Syndicate No 762 at Lloyd's. Mr Green has publicly admitted that "grave irregularities had occurred in the affairs of this syndicate", and hence the settlement made by Lloyd's. It has been put about in certain sections of the press that this settlement was some kind of rescue operation. It was, of course, nothing of the sort. It was a settlement, offered at the instigation of Lloyd's, out of court. It was accepted by the names concerned, thus saving Lloyd's from the appalling embarrassment of the whole fiasco coming out in open court—which it would have done, no doubt causing irreparable damage to the good name of Lloyd's throughout the world.

As part of the settlement over £6 million was left as "bad underwriting", and this was readily accepted by the one hundred odd names on this particular syndicate. None of us denied the principle of unlimited liability; what the litigants in the Sasse case were questioning was how much of a loss in excess of £21 million was there legal liability?

Lloyd's are now putting forward the argument that the proposed new Bill was approved at an extraordinary general meeting of the members in the Albert Hall last November by some 99.57 per cent. What was agreed at that meeting, which I attended, was the principle of a new Bill to give Lloyd's powers to better order its own affairs. The details of the Bill were not disclosed until some time later.

I do not believe that any future disgruntled name could ever sue the committee simply for bad underwriting. Lloyd's could only be sued if they had been in breach of their duties, either statutory or contractual, owed to the name. If Lloyd's have behaved properly they have nothing to fear in the courts. On the contrary, they would be vindicated. Of course the position would be different if in fact they have behaved improperly.

It seems to many of us that Lloyd's are now seeking to place themselves above the law. Should this come to pass, then I believe it would be prudent for every name to reconsider his or her own position most carefully with a view to deciding whether they wish to continue as underwriting members of Lloyd's,—and it is, after all, a fact that without the financial backing of the external names, Lloyd's would cease to function.

I am, etc,
NAPIER & ETTRICK,
House of Lords.
February 26.

From Mr David Charlesworth

Sir, Further to your Business Diary profile of Lloyd's of London, I write as an ordin[ary] non-working "external" me[m]ber to record some statis[tics] that might put some curr[ent] matters in perspective.

The proposal to present [the] Bill to Parliament, followi[ng] the Fisher report, was approv[ed] at an extraordinary gene[ral] meeting of all members [by] 13,219 votes for and 57 again[st].

The association of whi[ch] Lady Middleton is chairm[an] represents only some 200 [ex]ternal members, three-quarte[rs] of which presumably voted f[or] the Bill in its original form. T[he] majority of the active membe[rs] of her committee are new me[m]bers of Lloyd's—in fact [the] secretary only started und[er]writing last month. Lloy[d's] accounts are held open for th[ree] years to meet claims, and th[ere] is a further delay whilst p[ay]ments are made and tax matt[ers] dealt with—it is therefore fi[ve] years after election that [a] member has seen a compl[ete] cycle of events.

That Parliament is supre[me] is surely accepted by all [at] Lloyd's, but MPs should n[ote] that the so-called body rep[re]senting external names has o[nly] a membership of 1 per cent [of] such names, and that 99.7 p[er] cent of all members voted f[or] the Bill and that the ov[er]whelming majority of all me[m]bers support the prese[nt] chairman of Lloyd's. Mr Pe[ter] Green, and his council.

I remain, Sir,
DAVID CHARLESWORTH,
4 Shaftesbury Mews,
Stratford Road,
London, W8 6QR.
February 25.

Gas bill complaints

From Mr Raymond J. Hill

Sir, The British Union of Social Workers feels that the decision of the Gas Board to impose standing charges on the users of gas meters is yet another blow against the most vulnerable members of our society, and that this is another example of Government interference in the running of nationalized industries specifically designed to kill off those who are likely to make demands upon other services.

The imposition of this charge could mean the difference for the elderly on a fixed income between adequate heating and death from hypothermia.

We in the British Union of Social Workers feel that we must protest against this short-sighted action.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND J. HILL,
General Secretary,
British Union of Social Workers,
5 Sydney Road,
Haringey,
London, N8.
February 19.

From Mr J. W. Richards

Sir, The "robbery" of the gas standing charge referred to by your correspondents, and the anomaly which enables it to be avoided by the installation of a coin meter, pales into insignificance beside the extortion practised by the British Gas Corporation in applying their charges for certain domestic premises.

I am one of a cooperative of six flat owners whose annual gas bill is of the order of £2,000 a year.

One meter serves all flats and we share the bill.

Charges to us are made at the *commercial* rate of 26.1p per therm. A complaint to North Thames Gas that we should be charged at the domestic rate (24.6p for the first 52 therms and 21.2p thereafter) elicited this reply,

" . . . the British Gas Corporation specify that the 'gas supplied under the Domestic Credit Tariff may be used only in a private residence not subdivided into separately occupied parts' and your premises do not qualify for this tariff."

A formal request to the chairman of the British Gas Corporation for an explanation of this irrational and iniquitous ruling remains unanswered.

J. W. RICHARDS,
17 Palace Gate,
London, W8.
February 26.

Barclays procedures

From Mr Richard G. Hunt

Sir, Mr Ellis's experience [is] probably not unusual. Only [a] few days ago I entered a bran[ch] of Barclays Bank to make [a] substantial withdrawal fr[om] Barclaycard. I expected t[he] branch to telephone for aut[ho]rization. Almost before I h[ad] signed the voucher, however, [I] was asked by the cashier f[or] supporting identification. I [de]clined, stating that the card a[nd] my signature were quite suf[fi]cient. After a few minutes [on] the 'phone to Barclayca[rd] Centre, the cashier return[ed] requesting my address a[nd] other information. Reluctan[tly] I produced a current drivi[ng] licence, which was taken aw[ay] to the telephone. The cash[ier] came back again and asked [me] what address the centre had [on] their records, as if the eviden[ce] of the driving licence were [in]sufficient.

I formed the distinct impr[es]sion that had I refused [to] provide answers to this interr[o]gation the transaction wou[ld] not have been authorized no[t]withstanding availability with[in] my credit limit. I advised t[he] cashier that it was monstro[us] and an affront to my integri[ty] and proceeded to telepho[ne] Barclaycard myself. A sup[er]visor indicated that this was [a] routine security measure app[li]cable to all transactions such [as] mine where the customer w[as] not known to the branch. [I] believe that any self-respecti[ng] fraudster would not be deterr[ed] by this "routine" procedure. [I] believe also that had I gone [to] several branches with a tra[ns]action of, say, £25 at each [I] could possibly have achieve[d] my aim, maybe even witho[ut] telephoned authorization.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD G. HUNT,
45 Cumberland Road,
Bromley,
Kent, BR2 0PL.
February 19.

Looking back in amazement

From Mr R. Williams

Sir, The debate continues on how the revenues from North Sea oil should be spent to the best advantage—let us hope that a sensible and acceptable solution is soon reached.

Meanwhile, I suggest that posterity will look back on this period in our history with amazement and disbelief—disbelief that the Government have failed to utilize this fantastic piece of good fortune for the benefit of our own people and our industry, by accepting a lower level of taxation on oil and gas for United Kingdom consumption and passing on the immense benefits of lower prices to the inhabitants of these islands, as the Americans have done for decades.

Not only would we now be enjoying a considerably lower level of inflation, but our industry would be in much better shape, and much more competitive as a result of lower costs and lower prices.

Yours faithfully,
REG WILLIAMS,
Pinetrees,
North Road West,
Hythe,
Kent.
February 16.

Wealth and unity

From Mr B. Barker

Sir, This institute is a good example of the professional institutions to which the chairman, Southern Electricity, referred (February 20) in his appeal for a closer understanding between the public and private sectors of the economy based on their interdependence.

Seventy per cent of chartered secretaries work in the private sector and thirty per cent in the public. At our branch meetings and conferences the health service administrator rubs shoulders with the company secretary and the electricity board administrator with his opposite number in the industrial company which is his customer. This is one of the many advantages of being professionally qualified.

In 1980 our qualification was recognized in the Companies Act as being appropriate for the secretary of a public limited company; in 1981 we are being recognized as providing the appropriate qualification for administration in local government.

We firmly support Mr Wedgwood in his view that bridges need to be built and maintained between the sectors. Why should we be so concerned about ownership? What matters is cost effective performance leading to the creation of wealth and jobs. Envious sniping of one at the other can only distract and damage.

At any rate, chartered secretaries are the same wherever they are employed—and so are other professional people.

We accept the aims which Mr Wedgwood has described and the responsibility which follows from that acceptance.

Yours faithfully,
B. BARKER,
Secretary and Chief Executive,
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators,
16 Park Crescent, London, W1N.

French-style loan plan urged for small firms

By Peter Hill

The Government is being urged to consider deploying a loan scheme directed at small businesses modelled on a highly successful scheme developed in France.

Sir Keith Joseph and other ministers have been asked to consider introducing the scheme as the major feature of its attempts to stimulate small business investment and growth.

A number of other EEC countries are considering similar schemes and consideration of a similar venture is being studied by the Reagan Administration in the United States.

The French scheme is designed to provide assistance to industrial and commercial companies whose annual turnover does not exceed £35m and which employ up to 500 workers. Loans are issued through Credit National with a minimum life of 15 years and a maximum of 20.

The scheme is directed especially at developing new products, markets, techniques and the provision of new jobs in areas of high unemployment. The method used in France is to subordinate the Government loan to rank after all other creditors, and thus place it alongside all other shareholders in a company.

There are repayment holidays —of up to five years—and an initially low interest rate.

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of BSC (Industry) the corporation's job creation subsidiary, which faces an enormous task in promoting the attraction of new industries to areas where the BSC is running down its activities, said yesterday that over the last two years the French Government had provided £80m in participative loans through Credit National to companies in the main French industrial areas.

Sir Charles has suggested to ministers that if the scheme was adopted in the United Kingdom it could be described as the subordinated loan scheme with loans being issued by the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, out of their existing financial allocations.

Funding for the assisted areas of England would be made by another agency, possibly the National Enterprise Board.

He said: "The scheme would not require additional financial provision and it would not replace existing grant schemes. The subordinated loan is not intended as a subsidy but as a financial instrument in its own right".

The loan would constitute a cumulative redeemable preference share and it would offer some competition to banks and other City institutions in their growing plans for capital investment in small companies.

Sir Charles has suggested that the use of subordinated loans should be restricted to development areas.

AID Group takes stock after first public year

By Our Financial Staff

Allied International Design Group, which came to market a year ago, makes part of its profits from suggesting new products for others. It is the principal growth offshot of a four-arm group that takes in corporate image making, design and market research.

Mr James Pilditch, chairman of *Allied Industrial Design* group.

It has already suggested that Limmits, the slimming biscuit maker, could expand with an aerosol spray called Spray and Fry which coatsfood in fat. Some 15 months ago it suggested other DIY products for Rawplug and further steel-related products for Sheffield cutlers Viners.

Mr James Pilditch, chairman of AID, says that companies that have an excellent name restrict themselves to only one product and need suggestions on the way to exploit the name with other goods. For that they pay AID Group between £60,000 and £120,000 in fees.

This sort of innovation by its six-man team, of a total staff of 85, pushed profits for the seven months to the end of last October to £46,500 against a loss of £58,000 in the whole of 1979.

AID Group came to the 163(2) market and it now on the Unlisted Securities Market, via a reverse takeover of the United Rubber & Coffee Plantations (1932).

To give some comparison of the group's progress, AID has produced figures which show the contributions of its two acquisitions during the period, on an annualized basis.

That gives a pretax profit of £205,000 against £100,000 on a turnover of £1.6m against £1.2m. But the group is paying no dividend. Owing to a £60,000 adverse balance on the revenue reserve of United Rubber, the group is precluded from a payout.

It says that it intends to recommend a dividend this year, although it has yet to decide if this will begin at the interim stage in April or the full year in October.

Smith Whitworth and Vickers settle claim

Smith Whitworth's litigation with Vickers over the sale of Roevac Automation has been concluded at a total cost of £110,000.

Vickers made a total claim in August 1978 of more than £400,000, but the claim has been settled by payment of £40,000 relating solely to a shortfall in the net asset position as warranted at completion. The steel fabrication and textile machinery group added that £70,000 of irrecoverable costs have resulted from the litigation.

Before the action a sum in excess of the final settlement was paid into court and there will be no material effect on the future liquidity or earnings of the company.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co ..	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster ..	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	63	—	6.7	10.6	5.7
44	21	Armitage & Rhodes	43	—	1.4	3.3	17.7
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	92xd	—	5.5	6.0	4.6
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	51	Frederick Parker	50	−1	11.0	22.0	2.3
110	74	George Blair	75	—	3.1	4.1	—
110	59	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	—	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
55	50	Scruttons "A"	52	−1	5.3	10.2	3.8
224	215	Torday Limited	216	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	11	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	71	—	15.0	21.1	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	42	—	3.0	7.1	6.5
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	—	5.7	5.5	5.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	260	—	12.1	4.7	4.2

Payout cut as profit slumps at Blagden & Noakes

By Margareta Pagano

More than halved pretax profits and a lower final dividend payment are reported by Blagden & Noakes, the steel drum, plastics and chemicals manufacturer, whose biggest customer is ICI.

Group profits dropped to £2.5m in the year to December against a record £5.65m last time. Sales fell to £60.2m from £61.25m. The final dividend has been cut from 6.71p gross last year to 4.28p, making a total for the year of 8.5p gross against 11p. The shares tumbled 5p to 98p on the news yesterday.

Although the steel strike affected trading in the first half, the real decline came last spring when at one time demand was down by 35 per cent for the group's steel drum products, Mr Jack Noakes, the chairman, said. In the first six months the group made pretax profits of £2.09m leaving only £500,000 profits reported in the second half.

The reduction in demand for steel drums, about half of total sales, and plastic mouldings for the motor industry continued through the year. Trading profits from drum manufacture were down to £1.3m against £3m, and plastic mouldings lower at £856,000 compared with £1.6m.

Short-time working had been introduced in many plants and continues in specific concerns, and over the year some 200 redundancies were made from the workforce of 2,000. Results include £186,000 for redundancy payments.

Mr Noakes said the main reason for the reduction in profits is the pressure on margins from rising costs. Sales figures for the second half include £1.6m from Cargill Blagden, now B & N Chemicals, where the group bought out the 76 per cent of the equity it did not own for £500,000. Its contribution to profits was small.

The chemicals division saw sales slightly ahead at £13.8m but trading profit lower at £446,000 against £613,000. Improvement is looked for from the new £1.5m formaldehyde plant—making resins, fertilizers and disinfectants—which is expected to open on schedule in May and should boost the division in the second half of the year.

Mr Noakes says that some trading areas have shown sparks of recovery, the result of the end of destocking. In recent months demand for steel drums appears to have stabilized. Otherwise, he said, the outlook for the year was impossible to predict.

William Press to form new holding company

By Catherine Gunn

The directors of construction group William Press & Sons are to form a new group holding company under the William Press name, in order to separate group management from the trading subsidiaries, and pave the way for future expansion abroad.

Shareholders of William Press & Sons are to be offered one fully paid 10p share in the new holding company, William Press Group for every two 5p shares they now held. The company is also offering to buy back its outstanding preference and loan stocks, for a total cost of £1.2m.

Preference shareholders are being offered 73p a share. Holders of the 6½ per cent loan stock will get £86.50 cash for every £100 nominal of stock, and holders of the 8 per cent loan stock get £83.50 for every £100 of nominal they own.

A second interim dividend will be paid to shareholders in August, in place of William Press & Sons's final dividend for 1980. Preference and loan stock holders will receive all interest due to them at the completion date, which should be some time in mid-May, Mr William Hawken, the chairman, said yesterday. Details will be posted to shareholders in mid-March.

Mr Hawken said the company would like to expand its interests in energy production and downstream plant and make direct acquisitions abroad. He said it would also make more trade investments like the small stake recently built up in French Kier.

The scheme must be approved in the Chancery Division of the High Court. Proceedings taken against the company by the Inland Revenue over PAYE payments come to court on April 27.

Prince of Wales group acquires Variety Inns

By Our Financial Staff

The Southport-based Prince of Wales Hotels group yesterday revealed it has a conditional contract to purchase the private Variety Inns group for a total of £955,000 in a mixture of shares and cash payments.

The group, which operates hotels in Southport, the Lake District, Brighton and elsewhere, announced yesterday that it had acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Variety Inns, which runs the Arnos Court hotel in Bristol and the Cambridge Hotel in Camberley, and also holds 75 per cent of the issued capital of Martins Taverns which operates the Crown Inn in Cheltenham.

The total consideration is £955,000. Some £617,000 is to be paid by the allotment to the vendors of 950,000 new ordinary shares—representing 19 per cent of the enlarged share capital. Three loan notes of £233,000 guaranteed by the County Bank and redeemable in 1982, and a cash payment of £104,500 make up the remainder.

The share price jumped 8p to 83p on the news.

The three properties, all leasehold, were valued in December 1980 at £1.6m, including fixtures and fittings. The addition of the hotels brings the Prince of Wales' total number of hotels to 11 and two public houses.

Mr Arnold Clayman, chairman, said yesterday that together Variety Inns and Martins Taverns would contribute significantly to the group's earnings. First, however, the group would be able to make substantial savings in head office administration and directors' payments. The strong cash flow from Variety Inns, particularly in the winter months, would benefit the group's own cash flow position, he said.

The last year's results to December 1979 showed pretax profits of £471,000 on turnover of £5.4m. The total dividend payments for the year were 2.44p gross. This compared with £504,000 profits in the previous year. The last accounts showed a property revaluation of fixed assets giving a surplus of £1.17m.

The Prince of Wales group's other hotels are in Blackpool, Chester, Harrogate, Brighton, and two apiece in Southport and the Lake District.

Mr C. Martins, the managing director of Martins Taverns, holds the remaining 25 per cent stake in that group.

Massive sugar project opens

International

One of the world's most ambitious agricultural undertakings, the Kenana sugar project in Sudan, was officially opened yesterday. After 10 years of frustrated development, the plantation hopes soon to be producing 150,000 tonnes of sugar a year.

The scheme should make Sudan, a country with severe balance of payments difficulties, self-sufficient in sugar. It is seen in the Arab world as part of a long-term programme to turn the Sudan into the "bread basket" of the Middle East.

But over the last decade costs have soared. The refining plant, originally costed at £52m, has in fact taken £281m. At the same time, the composition of the shareholders has changed. Lonrho, the British trading company with extensive African agricultural interests, once had 49 per cent but now has less than 1 per cent.

Kenana, which lies about 150 miles south of Khartoum, is now controlled by Arab shareholders. Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti interests, including members of the Kuwaiti ruling family, hold about 57 per cent of the equity. Most of the rest is in the hands of the Sudan government, with less than 1 per cent held by the Japanese company Nissho Iwai.

After Lonrho pulled out because it could not raise the export finance, the plant engineering was taken over by Technip, a French company. Nissho Iwai supplied the plant's power station. The plant is designed to run on waste material from sugar cane.

Inchcape offshoot improves

Pretax profits of Inchcape Berhad, the Singapore subsidiary of Inchcape & Co of London, rose from $69,000 (Singapore) to $110,000 (£23,000) in the year to December 31. Turnover rose from $984,500 to $1.3m.

The improvement comes in the main from greater penetration of the buoyant car market by the Inchcape Berhad Motor companies.

In view of the difficult trading conditions in the territories in which Inchcape Berhad operates, 1981 is expected to be a difficult year. However, subject to the timber market showing some revival before the end of the year and providing there is no substantial upward movement of the yen, the directors said they believed that the results for 1981 would continue to be satisfactory.

Hume Industries

Hume Industries (Malaysia) recorded a 77.3 per cent rise in group pretax profits in the six months to December 31, to 11.4m ringgits (£2.3m).

Riding the Malaysian construction boom, the construction materials concern saw sales surge 116.6 per cent to 109.2m ringgits. The interim dividend was left unchanged at 6 per cent despite the company's enlarged capital compared with the year-earlier period.

TNT up 24pc in first half

Net profits of Thomas Nationwide Transport of Australia rose by 24.5 per cent to A$25.9m (£13.6m) in the six months to December 31. Turnover rose to A$474m from A$385.6m the year before.

Sir Peter Abeles, the chief executive, said that the increase in profits was assisted by additional earnings from Ansett Transport Industries and also from McIlwraith McEacharn.

Profits from Australia and the United Kingdom were better, those from Canada and New Zealand were steady while a loss was incurred by the transatlantic shipping service, Trans Freight Lines.

Credit Suisse up 14 pc

Credit Suisse, one of the three largest banks in Switzerland, has reported a 14 per cent rise in net profits for 1980. Net profits were 281m francs (£65m) and net aggregate assets rose by 8.2 per cent to 63,500m francs. The board has described the results as "satisfactory".

Union Bank of Switzerland, another of the big three, recently announced net profits of 334.1m francs, a 15.1 per cent increase on 1979.

Syntex sharply higher

Earnings of Syntex Corporation of Palo Alto, California, rose by 32 per cent to $47.8m (£21.9m) in the six months to January 31 on sales 25 per cent higher at $344.2m.

Human pharmaceuticals and diagnostic assay systems were primarily responsible for record second quarter sales of $175.7m, the company said. Sales of naproxen, an anti-inflammatory drug, and naproxen sodium, an analgesic, reached $56.2m worldwide during the quarter—a 33 per cent increase over combined sales of $42.1m in the same period last year.

Bank Hapoalim

Bank Hapoalim, Israel's second largest bank, has ended 1980 with a 21.2 per cent rise in its balance sheet to $17,000m. Net consolidated profits for the year rose from $56.9m to $84.7m.

Business appointments

Glynwed Foundries board has two new directors

Two new managing directors at Glynwed Foundries are: Mr Jeffrey Bernstein, director, who has been promoted to managing director of the company's building products division and Mr Harry T. Creffield, formerly director and general manager of the automotive and engineering castings division, who becomes managing director of that division.

Mr Kenneth Gaskell has been made director of the National Coal Board's Road Transport Service. He was previously commercial manager of the service and succeeds Mr E. V. Molyneux who is to retire.

Mr Dennis S. Oliver has become a member of the board of Anglo-American Venture Fund.

Mr Brian Thomas has been made deputy managing director of Treetex Acoustics.

Mr Karl H. Lutz is now finance director and company secretary of Interlube Systems, a member of the Tecalemit Group of Companies.

Mr Mark Dumas has become a director of E. D. & F. Man. He is chairman of E. D. & F. Man (Coffee) and will continue to be responsible for Group coffee interests.

Mr David G. Wrightson has been made a non-executive director of Matthews Wrightson Underwriting and Matthews Wrightson Pulbrook.

Mr Frederick C. Jeffery has joined the board of the Reliance Mutual Insurance Society.

Mr George Law has become a non-executive director of Baker Perkins Holdings.

Mr Philip Cockroft is now chairman of the Sutcliffe Group. Mr Peter Hogg becomes a non-executive director, with specific interest in management development.

Low and Bonar can clinch £4m deal

Approval has now been given by the Canadian Foreign Investment Review Authority for the C$11m (£4m) cash deal by which the Low and Bonar group, of Dundee, which operates internationally in packaging, engineering, textiles and travel, will buy the 45 per cent minority interest of Bemis Company Inc, of Minneapolis, United States, in their jointly-owned Western Canadian Packaging Company.

The deal will put all Low and Bonar's £32m 14-plant Canadian packaging network into one company, Bonar Packaging. It will strengthen the Group's North American operation.

In 1979 the group established a new packaging plant in Georgia for the manufacture and distribution of bulk containers.

No further payment yet by Swan Hunter

Liquidators at Swan Hunter Group say they cannot estimate when any further distribution can be made, or when the liquidation will be complete. Mr P. W. Burrows and Mr B. H. Larkins, liquidators, said that complex matters remain and although progress has been made towards their clarification it is not yet possible to forecast how soon or to what extent the provisions for contingent liabilities can be released.

The first cash distribution to shareholders was in 1979 at the same time as Gosforth Industrial Holdings acquired the non-nationalized parts of the group.

'Sugar supply less tight than expected'

E. D. and F. Man, the sugar dealer, has reported that sugar supply in the current season has been less tight than anticipated, due to reduced consumption and another excellent EEC crop.

Man, in a report dated February 27, said the lower consumption was due to recession and corn sweetener substitution. It is clear market tempo is slowing, it said, noting that prices for 1982 deliveries are close to 20 cents, while nearer positions have fallen some 50 per cent in the past 16 weeks.

Pretoria Portland cancels UK listing

Pretoria Portland Cement, the South African building material maker, has cancelled its listing on the London Stock Exchange. The company, only 2 per cent of whose shareholders are resident in the United Kingdom, said last month that it would apply for de-listing.

NCC Energy in US Housekeeping

NCC Energy and Ni-Cal Developments report that Ni-Cal's United States subsidiary, California Nickel Corporation, has signed a contract with Kaiser Engineers Inc for the completion of a final feasibility study for the development of a $250m strategic minerals complex in Northern California.

NCC Energy's acquisition of a further 339,649 shares of Ni-Cal's common stock has been approved by shareholders and Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, chairman of NCC Energy, has been appointed to the board of Ni-Cal Developments.

Allied Textile's qualified accounts

Allied Textile Companies, the Yorkshire worsted spinner, has had its accounts qualified by accountants Armitage & Norton who were unable to verify a £250,000 provision for further estimated rationalization costs. Allied has taken a cautious attitude towards parts of the business whose future is uncertain, accounting for them on a break-up rather than going concern basis.

Allied, which showed cash and investments of £5.2m in the balance sheet, says there is no sign of an improvement in trading.

Preliminary Results from Royal Insurance

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR 1980

The profit before taxation was £122.5m (1979 £131.5m). This compares with the forecast of £120m made last December at the time of the rights issue. Net profit attributable to stockholders was £70.2m. The comparative figure for 1979 is £73.8m being the net profit before the addition of the special long-term insurance profit item relating to 1975/78. As forecast at the time of the rights issue, the recommended final dividend is 14.75p per 25p unit of stock making a total for the year of 24.0p (1979 21.5p)—an increase of 11.6 per cent.

The audited accounts are due to be published on 21st April 1981. Preliminary unaudited figures for the year 1980, with the comparable figures for the year 1979, are as follows:—

	Year 1980 £m	Year 1979 £m
General Insurance: Premiums Written	1,241.6	1,225.1
Underwriting Result	−40.4	−16.5
Investment Income	146.7	133.0
Long-term insurance profits	10.0	7.7
Share of Associated Companies' profit	6.2	7.3
Profit before taxation	122.5	131.5
Less: Taxation	51.5	56.8
Minority interests	0.8	0.9
Net profit after taxation and minorities	70.2	73.8
Balance after tax of stockholders' long-term insurance profits 1975/78	—	7.2
Net profit attributable to the stockholders	70.2	81.0
(pence per unit)	(46.6p)	(53.9p)
Dividends for the year	41.7	32.4
(pence per unit)	(24.0p)	(21.5p)
Transfer to retained profits	28.5	48.6

EXCHANGE RATES

In the above figures, foreign currency has been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:—

USA	$2.33	$2.12
Canada	$2.72	$2.49
Netherlands	Fls 4.63	Fls 4.26
Australia	$2.04	$1.90

Premiums written in 1980 have been depressed in sterling terms in comparison with 1979 due to movements in exchange rates. The underlying premium growth was 8 per cent.

The effect of changes in exchange rates in the comparison of the year's results was to depress the profit before taxation by £5.3m: the underwriting result benefited by £4.3m, but the investment income was adversely affected by £9.6m. The underlying growth in investment income was 17.6 per cent.

UNDERWRITING RESULTS

	Year 1980 £m	Year 1979 £m
USA	−16.1	−8.2
UK and Irish Republic	10.4	5.6
Canada	−24.1	−14.9
Netherlands	4.3	5.1
Australia	−8.5	−4.0
Other Overseas	−6.4	−0.1
	−40.4	−16.5

In the United States our very important commercial multi-peril business again produced a profit, though considerably lower than in 1979. In all other major lines there were losses, in most cases larger than in 1979. Workers' compensation and personal motor business, however, showed reduced losses.

In the United Kingdom there was again a satisfactory underwriting result. Almost all major lines of business were profitable. Property results benefited from the generally favourable weather conditions and the reduction in the industrial fire damage costs in the second half of the year. The liability underwriting experience was adversely affected by the substantial increase in average claims costs.

In Canada as a result of the very difficult market conditions obtaining throughout the year, brought about by intense competition and the consequent absence of rate increases, all major lines with the exception of liability made losses.

In the Netherlands the satisfactory result for the year was due to the continued profitability of the large motor account. There were underwriting losses on most other lines.

In Australia, market conditions remained difficult and there were heavy underwriting losses in most major lines with a particularly marked deterioration in workers' compensation.

In Other Overseas the sharply increased underwriting loss reflects the worsening market conditions in many of the countries in which we operate. There was a breakeven result on overseas business written in the United Kingdom.

The operating ratios for the USA on the US statutory basis are:—

	Year 1980	Year 1979
Claims as % of earned premiums	69.0	68.3
Expenses as % of written premiums	33.4	32.5
	102.4	100.8

FINAL DIVIDEND

The directors propose to recommend to the stockholders that at the annual general meeting, to be held on 14th May 1981, a final dividend be declared of 14.75p per 25p unit of stock to be paid on 22nd May 1981. This dividend will be payable on the capital as increased by the rights issue to stockholders registered at the close of business on 24th April 1981. This together with the interim dividend of 9.25p already paid will make a total distribution of 24.0p per unit of stock for the year 1980 compared with 21.5p for 1979. With the addition of stockholders' tax credit the equivalent "gross" dividend for the year at the current rate of tax is 34.29p.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER bars were easier yesterday: cathodes were idle.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £791-792 a metric ton; three months, £815-815.50. Sales, 12,600. Cash cathodes, £787-788; three months, £802-803. Sales, nil tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £802-803.50; three months, £826-826.50. Settlement, £802.50. Sales, 13,350 tons. Cash cathodes, £799-800.00; three months, £812.50-813. Settlement, £800.00. Sales, 750 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin was easier; high grade idle.—Afternoon.—Standard, cash, £6,080-6,090 a tonne; three months, £6,195-6,200. Sales, 725 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,080-6,090; three months, £6,195-6,200. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash, £6,180-6,190; three months, £6,280-6,290. Settlement, £6,190. Sales, 285 tonnes. High grade, cash £6,180-6,190; three months, £6,280-6,290. Settlement, £6,190. Sales nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works fell by 14 cents yesterday to 30.61 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was barely steady.—Afternoon. Cash, £324-324.50 per tonne; three months, £334.25-334.50. Sales, 2,450 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £327-327.50; three months, £336-336.25. Settlement, £327.50. Sales, 3,800 tonnes.

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £335.50-336.50 per tonne; three months, £345-346.00. Sales, 3,250 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £335-336.00; three months, £345-346.00. Settlement, £336.00. Sales, 9,050 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £203.15 ($443.00) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 532.85p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,160.00); three months, 549.00p (1,208.10c); six months, 566.00p (1,261.40c); one year, 607.50p (1,375.00c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 529.5-530p; three months, 546-547.0p. Sales, 41 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 530-531.0p; three months, 547-547.5p. Settlement, 531.0p. Sales, 69 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £650-652.00 per tonne; three months, £666-667.00. Sales, 3,250 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £653-654; three months, £667-669. Settlement, £654.00. Sales, 2,400 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady, quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,860-2,870 per tonne; three months, £2,850-2,855. Sales, 72 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,860-2,865; three months £2,846-2,850. Settlement, £2,865. Sales, 228 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo):—April, 59.50-60.50; May, 60.10-60.50; April-June, 60.60-60.80; July-Sept, 63.90-64.00; Oct-Dec, 66.70-66.80; Jan-March, 69.50-69.60; April-June, 72.30-72.50; July-Sept, 75.10-75.30; Oct-Dec, 77.90-78.00. Sales: 178 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were inactive (all pence per kilo): Spot: 59.25-60.75. Cifs April, 62.75-63.50; May, 63.25-64.00.

COFFEE.—**ROBUSTAS** (£ per tonne): March, 1017-1019; May, 1038-1040; July, 1052-1053; Sept, 1063-1065; Nov, 1070-1071; Jan, 1075-1095; March, 1070-1115. Sales: 3,230 lots, including 25 options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.45): April, 142.00-47.00; June, 142.00-47.00; Aug, 142.00-47.00; Oct, 141.00-47.00; Dec, 141.00-46.00; Feb, 141.00-46.00; April, 140.00-45.00. Sales: nil.

COCOA was about steady (£ per metric ton).—March, 863-66; May, 926-27; July, 949-50; Sept, 970-71; Dec, 1001-02; March, 1022-23; May, 1039-41. Sales: 3,058 lots, including one option.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was unchanged at £355; the "whites" price was unchanged at £284. Futures (£ per tonne): May, 256.25-56.30; Aug, 254.25-54.75; Oct, 250.35-50.50; Jan, 236.50-37.50; March, 237.50-38.00; May, 236.50-38.00; Aug, 234.00-38.00. Sales: 6,245 lots. Closing tone: barely steady. ISA prices (Feb 27): daily, 23.42c; 15-day average, 24.06c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was easy yesterday (£ per tonne):—April, 120.60-20.70; June, 124.50-24.80; August, 126.80-27.20; Oct, 127.50-29.00; Dec, 129.00-31.00; Feb, 129.50-34.00; April, 130.00-36.50. Sales: 93 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet): March, 358-47; May, 348-55; Aug, 360-66; Oct, 369-75; Dec, 377-83; Jan, 378-80; March, 380-85; May, 380-87; Aug, 383-89. Sales: 40 lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic):—**WHEAT.**—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. US dark northern spring, No 3, 14 per cent: unquoted. US hard winter, 13½ per cent:-March, £109.50; April, £110.75 trans-shipment east coast sellers. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob: March, £112.50; April-June, £116.25 east coast sellers.

MAIZE.—US—French: March, £123.00 trans-shipment east coast seller. S African white, unquoted. S African yellow: March-April, £88.50 seller.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: April-June, £105 east coast seller. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta): EEC origin.—**BARLEY**, was quiet.—March, £97.30; May, £100.05; Sept, £93.60; Nov, £97.30; Jan, £101.25. Sales: 56 lots. **WHEAT** was quiet.—March, £108.50; May, £111.50; July, £115.30; Sept, £98.40; Nov, £102.10; Jan, £106.00. Sales: 49 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	£109.50	£106.60	—
E. Midlands	—	£107.10	£96.90
N. East	—	—	£95.00
Scotland	—	£105.40	£95.90

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 2: GB: Cattle, 90.31p per KG LW (+2.05). UK: Sheep, 175.49p per KG EST DCW (+3.81). GB: Pigs, 69.35p per KG LW (+0.04). England and Wales: Cattle numbers up 10.3 per cent, average price, 90.45p (+1.74). Sheep numbers up 8.3 per cent, average price, 176.60p (+3.12). Pig numbers up 9.5 per cent, average price, 69.34p (+0.01). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 10.0 per cent, average price, 89.67p (+3.47). Sheep numbers down 0.7 per cent, average price, 171.68p (+6.81). Pig numbers down 18.0 per cent, average price, 68.57p (+1.92).

POTATOES (Gafta):—April, £58.90; Nov, £58.00; Feb, £67.00. Sales 186 lots (of 40 tonnes each).

LONDON TEA MARKET.—Assam CTCS continued to meet keen competition and put on 2p to 3p per kilo, while Bangladesh teas came in for improved demand at fully firm rates yesterday.

Bright liquorings from East Africa were often dearer, particularly dusts, but mediums opened very irregular and closed slightly easier. Malawi CTCS stayed firm, but Mozambique orthodox sorts lost 2p to 3p per kilo.

Sri Lankan bright liquoring teas met with good demand and sold at firm-to-dearer rates. Other descriptions were irregular, but on average about steady. The highest price yesterday was 136p for a Kenyan Pekoe dust. The offering totalled 55,267 packages.—Reuter.

F. H. Tomkins sale to Brasway

F. H. Tomkins' subsidiary—Woden Steel and Fasteners—has sold to Brasway the fixed and current assets comprising part of the freehold premises at Woden Works, Wensbury, and certain plant and machinery and stocks relating to its steel department. Brasway has also undertaken to discharge certain liabilities of that department, consideration £189,000 cash.

Certain trade debtors will be collected by Brasway for Tomkins and will be paid over by weekly transfer as collected. No part of the latest published profits of Tomkins relate to the assets being disposed of.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): Copper fell 2,300 to 119,300; Tin fell 515 to 6,510; Lead fell 3,300 to 61,675; Zinc fell 525 to 91,825; Aluminium fell 1,025 to 46,925; Nickel rose 48 to 4,068; Silver fell 1.11m to 24.6m.

Discount market

The discount houses required help on an unprecedented scale from the Bank of England yesterday. It clearly reached proportions of something like £1,400m. The overwhelming factor with which the market had to cope was the payover to the Exchequer of about £1,250m of PRT. In addition, *though dwarfed into insignificance,* there was a moderate quantity of eligible bank bills maturing in official hands.

Foreign exchange report

Very active and nervous at first, foreign exchange markets subsequently quietened down considerably yesterday.

Sterling which at one stage dipped to $2.1655—its lowest level since early-April last year—recovered during the mid-session and held relatively steady in later trading.

Against the dollar, the pound *gave up 245 points at $2.1805,* while its trade-weighted index rallied from an opening calculation of 98.1 to end only 0.2 points lower at 98.7 from 98.9 on Friday. Dealers said speculation over a hefty cut in MLR in the Budget was the main reason for sterling's decline, but there was also some selling pressure because of the further advance in the dollar.

Higher Eurodollar deposit rates reflecting the view that United States interest rates will stay high for some period of time, spurred the United States currency to useful *gains at the expense of the* Deutch-mark at 2.1495 (2.1325) and the Swiss franc, 1.9795 (1.9675).

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) March 2	Market rates (close) March 2	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.1630-1830	$2.1800-1810	0.40-0.50c disc	2.35-2.45c disc
Montreal	$2.6100-6250	$2.6230-6240	0.70-0.80c disc	3.00-3.20c disc
Amsterdam	5.15-5.20fl	5.17½-5.18½fl	1¼-¼c prem	1¼-¼c prem
Brussels	76.10-76.90f	76.70-76.80f	10c prem-par	17-27c disc
Copenhagen	14.57-14.71k	14.68½-69½k	200-400re prem	675-855ore disc
Dublin	1.2720-1.2830p	1.2812-1.2822p	05-20p disc	55-75p disc
Frankfurt	4.66-4.71m	4.69-4.70m	½pf prem-½pf disc	par-1pf disc
Lisbon	124.00-125.30e	125.00-125.20e	28-82c disc	94-197c disc
Madrid	190.00-191.20p	190.85-191.05p	15-23c disc	175-220c disc
Milan	2246-2263lr	2260.50-2262.50lr	4½-6½lr disc	28½-31½lr disc
Oslo	11.89-12.00k	11.91-11.93k	190-60ore prem	30-175ore disc
Paris	10.95-11.06f	11.04½-11.05½f	½c prem-½c disc	5¼-6¼c disc
Stockholm	10.13-10.19k	10.17½-10.18½k	165-245ore disc	875-1070ore disc
Tokyo	457-465y	459½-460½y	235-205y prem	535-455y prem
Vienna	33.00-33.30sch	33.23-33.28sch	5gro prem-3gro d	par-10gro prem
Zurich	4.31-4.35f	4.32¾-4.33¾f	2½-1½c prem	3¾-2¾c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.2 at 98.7.

Other Markets

Australia	1.8790-1.8840
Bahrein	.8190-.8220
Finland	8.97-9.01
Greece	109.90-111.90
Hongkong	11.6430-11.6830
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	.5955-.5985
Malaysia	5.0190-5.0490
Mexico	50.65-52.15
New Zealand	2.3710-2.3910
Saudi Arabia	7.2580-7.2880
Singapore	4.5740-4.6040
South Africa	1.7100-1.7250

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	98.7	27.3
US dollar	101.4	−3.0
Canadian dollar	89.7	−15.5
Schilling	115.0	+22.0
Belgian franc	107.2	+9.2
Danish kroner	85.0	−10.2
Deutsche mark	119.7	+39.4
Swiss franc	131.9	+72.5
Guilder	112.0	+15.3
French franc	86.0	−10.2
Lira	61.3	−52.4
Yen	143.2	+40.8

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.70-1.535
† Canada	0.8310-0.8313
Netherlands	2.3750-2.3780
Belgium	35.19-35.23
Denmark	6.7350-6.7350
West Germany	2.1520-2.1520
Portugal	57.40-57.55
Spain	87.60-87.70
Italy	1035-1037
Norway	5.46-5.49
France	5.0680-5.0680
Sweden	4.6650-4.6650
Japan	210.90-210.10
Austria	15.25-15.27
Switzerland	1.97-1.80

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $1.2032-1.2038

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 14 Low 14

Week Fixed: 14-13½

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12¹³⁄₁₆	2 months	12¹¹⁄₁₆
3 months	11¾	3 months	11½

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	12⅝-12⁹⁄₁₆	3 months	12⅞
3 months	11¹⁵⁄₁₆-11¹³⁄₁₆	4 months	12⅝
4 months	11¾-11⅝	6 months	12
6 months	11⁷⁄₁₆-11⁵⁄₁₆		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	14½-14⅛	7 months	12½-12¼
2 months	13½-13¼	8 months	12½-12¼
3 months	12¾-12½	9 months	12½-12¼
4 months	12¾-12½	10 months	12½-12¼
5 months	12½-12¼	11 months	12½-12¼
6 months	12½-12¼	12 months	12¼-12

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14-13¾	6 months	12¾-12½
3 months	12¹³⁄₁₆-12¹¹⁄₁₆	12 months	12¼-12

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	16	3 months	12¾
7 days	16½-17	6 months	12
1 month	14½	1 year	12¼

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 18-17½ Close 25-30

1 week	17½-17	6 months	12½-12¼
1 month	14⅝-14⁷⁄₁₆	9 months	12⅜-12⁵⁄₁₆
3 months	13-12⅞	12 months	12⅜-12⁵⁄₁₆

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 13½ 6 months 12½

Finance House Base Rate 14%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.6579	+4.70	+1.41	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.96329	+3.10	−0.19	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.54518	+2.54	−0.75	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.98548	+2.37	−0.92	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81827	+2.72	−0.57	1.512
Irish punt	0.685201	0.694293	+3.80	+0.60	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1226.44	+5.93	+2.64	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 14¼-13¾, seven days, 15½-15¼, one month, 16⅛-16½; three months, 16⅞-17½; six months, 17⁵⁄₁₆-17³⁄₁₆.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $478.50 (an ounce); pm, $465.50 close, $465.8.
Krugerrand (per coin): $480-83 (£220-221½).
Sovereigns (new): $119-121 (£54½-55½).

Wall Street

New York, March 2.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher in moderate trading as the NYSE index rose 0.45 to 75.58 and the average price per share 21 cents. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 3.41 to 977.99 and advances led declines *911 to 650 as turnover slowed to* 47,710,000 *shares* from 53,210,000 Friday.

The oils bounced back after being soft in recent sessions. Santa Fe International gained 1⅞ to 52⅝. Its fourth quarter profit doubled. Standard Oil (Indiana) rose 1¼ to 68⅞. Exxon ⅞ to 72⅞ and Mobil ¼ to 68¼.

Among Airlines UAL Incorporated gained one to 24½ and American ⅜ to 12½, both in active trading. A 300,000-share block of American moved at 12½. Delta rose 1⅛ to 68⅜, Usair ¼ to 20, Trans World ⅜ to 20½ and Northwest 1¼ to 29⅞.

Continental Airlines rose ¼ to 12⅞, but Western Airlines lost ⅛ to 8½ and Texas Air ⅛ to 11⅞ on the American Exchange. The Civil Aeronautics Board gave tentative approval both to the proposed merger of Continental and Western and to Texas Air's request to buy 48.5 per cent of Continental.

Steels firmed but precious metals dropped on sagging bullion prices. US Steel rose ⅜ to 28½, Bethlehem ⅜ to 26⅛ and active LTV Corporation ⅛ to 22½.

Among gold shares, ASA fell 2⅞ to 43, Dome Mines 3⅛ to 70½. Homestake 1½ to 46⅞ and Campbell Red Lake 2⅞ to 45⅞.

	Mar 2	Feb 27
Allied Chem	53	53⅛
Allied Stores	21½	21¼
Allis Chalmers	32⅝	32½
Alcoa	33	33⅛
Amax Inc	38⅜	38
Amerada Hess	39⅞	38⅞
Am Airlines	12⅛	11⅞
Am Brands	71½	70⅜
Am Broadcast	30⅜	30⅞
Am Can	29⅜	29⅝
Am Cyanamid	30⅛	31⅛
Am Elec Power	18	18
Am Home	31⅛	31⅛
Am Motors	4⅛	4
Am Nat Res	44½	44⅛
Am Standard	38⅞	39⅜
Am Telephone	50⅞	51⅛
AMF Inc	22½	22⅝
Armco Steel	37⅛	37
Asarco	34⅜	35⅛
Ashland Oil	29⅞	29⅛
Atlantic Richfield	59½	58⅞
Avco	26½	26⅞
Avon Products	37½	37⅜
Bankers Tst NY	33⅛	30⅞
Bank of America	28⅜	28⅞
Bank of NY	35	34⅛
Beatrice Foods	18⅛	18⅛
Bendix	59⅛	59
Bethlehem Steel	26⅛	26
Boeing	35	33
Boise Cascade	38⅛	38⅜
Borden	29⅜	28½
Borg-Warner	40⅞	39⅜
Bristol Myers	55½	56½
BP	35⅞	36⅞
Burlington Ind	20⅜	20⅞
Burlington Nthn	65⅛	65
Burroughs	53⅝	52
Campbell Soup	30⅞	30⅜
Canadian Pacific	38⅝	39⅜
Caterpillar	64	64⅛
Celanese	67	65⅞
Central Soya	13	13½
Chase Manhat	47⅞	47½
Chem Bank NY	50⅛	50½
Chrysler	6⅛	5⅞
Citicorp	23½	23⅞
Cities Service	50	47⅞
Clark Equip	37½	38⅜
Coca Cola	36	35⅞
Colgate	15⅞	15⅞
CBS	55⅞	56
Columbia Gas	38	38⅛
Combustion Eng	43	42⅜
Comwlth Edison	18⅛	18⅜
Conoco	58⅜	58⅞
Cons Edison	22⅞	22⅞
Cons Foods	27⅞	27⅞
Cons Power	18⅞	18⅞
Continental Grp	34½	34½
Control Data	66⅜	65⅜
Corning Glass	65⅛	65½
CPC Intnl	62⅛	62⅝
Crane	38⅛	39
Crocker Int	38	38½
Crown Zeller	49⅛	50
Dart & Kraft	44⅛	44⅛
Deere	45⅛	44½
Delta Air	68½	67⅛
Detroit Edison	11⅛	11⅜
Disney	60½	59⅞
Dow Chemical	36⅜	35⅞
Dresser Ind	46	45⅞
Duke Power	16⅞	16⅞
Du Pont	48⅜	48⅜
Eastern Air	6⅞	7⅛
Eastman Kodak	79⅞	80
Eaton Corp	31⅞	31⅜
El Paso Nat Gas	24	23
Equitable Life	10⅞	10⅞
Esmark	59⅛	58
Evans P. D.	19⅞	19⅛
Exxon Corp	72⅞	71½
Fed Dept Stores	32⅜	33⅛
Firestone	11⅛	11⅛
Fst Chicago	18⅞	19½
Fst Nat Boston	36½	36½
Fst Penn Corp	4⅛	4⅛
Ford	20⅛	19⅞
GAF Corp	13⅝	13½
Gen Dynamics	33	33⅛
Gen Electric	67⅞	66⅞
Gen Foods	31⅛	31⅛
Gen Mills	30	29¾
Gen Motors	50	50⅛
Gen Pub Util NY	4⅞	4⅞
Gen Tel Elec	27½	26⅞
Gen Tire	22⅝	23
Genesco	5⅛	5⅛
Georgia Pacific	29⅛	28
Getty Oil	73⅛	71
Gillette	28⅞	28⅛
Goodrich	22½	20⅞
Goodyear	16⅛	16⅞
Gould Inc	29⅞	29
Grace	50½	51⅛
Gt Atlc & Pacific	6	6
Greyhound	17	17
Grumman Corp	23⅝	24⅛
Gulf Oil	38⅜	38⅜
Gulf & West	18⅛	18⅞
Heinz H. J.	32	31
Hercules	20⅞	21⅛
Honeywell	109½	108⅝
IC Inds	30½	31⅛
Ingersoll	73½	72⅞
Inland Steel	31⅞	30⅞
IBM	65⅛	64⅛
Int Harvester	19⅞	18⅞
INCO	18	18⅛
Int Paper	46	46⅞
Int Tel Tel	29½	29⅞
Irving Bank	48⅞	49
Jewel Co	37½	37⅞
Jim Walter	25⅛	25⅛
Johns-Manville	22⅛	22
Johnson & John	102½	103
Kaiser Alumin	22½	23
Kennecott	23⅞	23½
Kerr McGee	78½	77
Kimberly Clark	63⅛	63½
K Mart	17	16⅛
Kroger	25	24½
L.T.V. Corp	22½	22⅞
Litton	71⅛	71⅛
Lockheed	28	27½
Lucky Stores	14⅞	14½
Manuf Hanover	37⅛	37⅞
Mapco	41	41⅛
Marathon Oil	61½	61
Marine Midland	17⅜	18
Martin Marietta	62	61⅛
McDonnell	43⅞	44⅛
Mead	28⅜	29
Merck	85	83⅞
Minnesota Mng	63⅞	62⅞
Mobil Oil	68⅜	68⅛
Monsanto	76	75⅞
Morgan J. P.	54⅞	55
Motorola	63½	62½
NCR Corp	63½	60⅞
NL Industries	70⅛	68⅞
Nabisco	28⅞	28
Nat Distillers	27½	26⅞
Nat Steel	26	25⅞
Norfolk West	42⅞	42½
NW Bancorp	29½	29⅞
Norton Simon	15⅛	15⅛
Occidental Pet	30⅛	29⅞
Ogden	33⅞	32⅞
Olin Corp	23½	22⅞
Owens-Illinois	30⅞	30⅞
Pacific Gas Elec	20½	20⅛
Pan Am	4⅞	4⅞
Penney J. C.	26⅞	25⅞
Pennzoil	41⅞	41½
Pepsico	33	32⅞
Pfizer	49½	50
Phelps Dodge	32⅞	32
Philip Morris	48½	48⅞
Phillips Petrol	49⅞	47½
Polaroid	28½	25⅞
PPG Ind	31⅞	30½
Proctor Gamble	71½	71⅛
Pub Ser El & Gas	17⅞	18½
Rapid American	27½	[illegible]
Raytheon	93⅛	91⅛
RCA Corp	30⅛	29⅞
Republic Steel	28⅞	27⅞
Reynolds Ind	47⅞	47⅞
Reynolds Metal	36⅞	37½
Rockwell Int	38½	37½
Royal Dutch	71	71⅞
Safeways	37⅞	37⅞
St Regis Paper	31⅛	31⅛
Santa Fe Ind	89½	89⅞
SCM	23½	23⅜
Schlumberger	110⅛	109⅞
Scott Paper	21⅞	21⅞
Seagram	56	55⅞
Sears Roebuck	15⅛	15⅛
Shell Oil	50½	47⅞
Shell Trans	37⅞	37⅞
Signal Co	27½	26⅞
Singer	11⅞	11⅞
Sony	16⅜	16½
Sth Cal Edison	[illegible]	40
Southern Pacific	39⅞	[illegible]
Southern Rly	72	[illegible]
Sperry Corp	54⅛	54⅞
Std Brands	26⅛	26⅛
Std Oil California	92⅛	91½
Std Oil Indiana	68⅞	67⅛
Std Oil Ohio	60⅛	59
Sterling Drug	21⅛	21½
Stevens J. P.	14½	14⅛
Sunbeam Corp	13⅜	13⅛
Sun Comp	42	41⅞
Teledyne	143⅛	142⅛
Tenneco	48	48⅛
Texaco	39⅞	40
Texas East Corp	59½	60
Texas Inst	115	111⅛
Texas Utilities	19½	19⅛
Textron	29⅞	29
TWA	20⅛	19⅞
Travelers Corp	42	41⅞
TRW Inc	59⅛	58⅛
UAL Inc	24½	23½
Union Carbide	58⅛	58⅛
Union Oil Calif	42	42⅛
Un Pacific Corp	68⅛	67⅞
Uniroyal	6⅞	6⅞
United Brands	14⅛	14⅛
US Industries	10⅛	10
US Steel	28½	28⅛
Utd Technol	58	57⅞
Wachovia	22½	21⅞
Warner Lambert	21	20⅞
Wells Fargo	27⅞	28⅛
West'n Bancorp	36⅛	36⅞
Westnghse Elec	29⅛	29⅛
Weyerhauser	30⅛	29⅞
Whirlpool	21⅛	21⅞
White Motor	5⅜	5⅞
Woolworth	25	21½
Xerox Corp	57⅛	56⅛
Zenith	16⅛	17

Canadian Prices

Abitibi	20⅛	20⅛
Alcan Alumin	40⅞	40½
Algoma Steel	42½	42⅛
Bell Telephone	19⅛	18⅞
Cominco	64⅛	65
Cons Bathurst	26½	25⅞
Gulf Oil	25⅛	25⅛
Hawker/Sid Can	23	23
Hudson Bay Mn	30½	30
Hudson Bay Oil	27	27⅛
Imasco	31⅛	31⅞
Imperial Oil	31	31⅛
Int Pipe	15⅛	15⅞
Mass-Fergsn	4⅞	4⅞
Royal Trust	20	20
Seagram	68	67⅛
Steel Co	35⅞	35⅞
Thomson N "A"	21½	21⅛
Walker Hiram	27⅞	27⅞
WCT	15	15

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.1760 (2.2010); three months, 2.1998 (2.2236); Canadian dollar 1.2048 (1.2019).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 419.59 (426.77). The futures index was 435.33 (440.78).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 977.99 (974.58); transportation 396.70 (393.34); utilities 108.11 (106.43). New York Stock Exchange index, 75.59 (75.13); industrials 86.63 (86.00); transportation, 72.95; utilities, 37.49 (37.52); financial, 70.37 (70.11).

US commodities

SILVER futures closed at 10-month lows, with spot March losing 65.5 cents to $11.53 an ounce. Prices were offered down the 50-cent limit from opening until the close, thus forcing traders to liquidate via switches in the spot month. March, 1,147.00-1,153.00c; April, 1,182.50c; May, 1,200.00c; July, 1,235.00c; Sept, 1,270.00c; Dec, 1,322.00c; Jan, 1,339.00c; March, 1,372.50c; May, 1,406.00c; July, 1,439.50c; Sept, 1,473.00c; Dec, 1,523.00c.

GOLD eased under pressure from a strengthening dollar today to $462.50-$464.50 an ounce, down $22.

CHICAGO IMM.—June, $545.00; Sept, $565.00; Dec, $582.50; March, $610.50; April, $635.60 nominal; July, $654.80; April, $464.00-466.00; May, $470.40; June, $474.00-476.00; Aug, $486.90; Oct, $499.00; Dec, $511.80; Feb, $524.00; April, $536.60; June, $549.30; Aug, $563.10; Oct, $574.90; Dec, $587.80.

COPPER futures closed near day's lows, in sympathy with weaker gold values at approximately 3c declines. March 77.20-77.30c; April 78.30c; May 79.40-79.60c; July, 81.70-81.80c; Sept, 84.20c; Dec, 87.90c; Jan, 88.40c; March, 90.40c; May, 92.15c; July, 93.50c; Sept, 95.65c; Dec, 98.25c; Jan, 99.10c.

SUGAR futures closed 0.61 to 0.27 cent down on crossover selling from precious metals and grains. May, 23.45-23.50c; July 23.65-23.70c; Sept, 23.40c; Oct, 23.30-23.35c; Jan, 21.85 bid-22.00c asked; March, 21.95-22.00; May, 21.90 bid-22.10c asked; July, 21.90 bid-22.20c asked.

COTTON futures were: March, 86.50 bid-86.75c asked; May, 88.14c; July, 87.82c; Oct, 84.25c; Dec, 81.35-81.48c; March, 82.25 bid-82.60c; May, 82.75 bid-83.25c asked; July, 83.70 bid-84.00c asked.

COFFEE futures closed an active trade with nearbys off 1.65 to 2.02 cents and deferred delivery contracts down the 4.00-cent limit. March, 121.50-121.70c; May, 121.30-121.68c; July, 123.20-123.25c; Sept, 123.70-124.00c; Dec, 122.10c; March, 122.40c asked; May, 124.26c; July, 123.95c.

COCOA futures ended a moderately active session near lows on late stop loss selling to finish $25 to $34 weaker. March, $1,952-1,924; May, $1,995-1,960; July, $2,035-2,005; Sept, $2,082-2,060; Dec, $2,150-2,125; March, $2,215-2,200.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Futures ended down the 30 cent a bushel limit in three positions, to 25½ cents a bushel lower in deferred March. Oil settled 0.81c to 0.40c a lb lower. Meal finished down $8.40 to $6.80 a ton. **SOYABEANS.** March, 726-707c; May, 751-751c; July, 774-756c; Aug, 781-768½c; Sept, 788½-775c; Nov, 806-789½c; Jan, 825½-809c; March, 845-831c.

SOYABEAN OIL. March, 23.26-23.30c; May, 24.00-24.05c; July, 24.85-24.90c; Aug, 25.20c; Sept, 25.60c; Oct, 25.60c; Dec, 26.40-26.45c; Jan, 26.70c; March, 27.30c bid; May, 27.80c bid.

SOYABEAN MEAL. March, $196.00-197.50; May, $207.00-207.80; July, $214.20-214.60; Aug, $217.00; Sept, $221.50-222.00; Oct, $224.50-226.00; Dec, $227.50-228.00; Jan, $230.50.

CHICAGO GRAINS. Wheat futures closed at or near the bottom of a 15 cent range, down 11½ cents a bushel to down the 20 cent a bushel limit in September. Corn futures finished 8½c a bushel lower in spot March, to down the 10c a bushel limit in deferred March. The four middle positions settled with 9½c losses. **WHEAT.**—March, 448-434c; May, 451-438c; July, 455-442c; Sept, 468½-458c; Dec, 491-479½c; March, 508-497c. **CORN.**—March, 357½-350½c; May, 367½-359½c; July, 372½-365½c; Sept, 371½-364½c; Dec, 370-363½c; March, 380-373½c. **OATS.**—March, 227-224½c; May, 221½-219c; July, 216½-213½c; Sept, 217-213½c; Dec, 224½-221c.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Authorized Unit Trusts			
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers.			
		72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks 0296-5941			
62.1	47.1	American Growth	60.2	64.7e	2.24
46.7	32.3	Capital	46.3	50.0	4.50
57.1	44.9	General	55.5	60.0	5.12
116.6	100.7	Gilt & Fixed Int	104.3	109.9e	11.93
35.4	27.4	Income	35.2	37.1e	7.21
96.2	91.7	Worldwide	95.4	101.0	6.63
50.7	37.3	Investment	47.9	52.9	4.71
87.0	67.5	Equitas Prog	81.3	87.9	4.65
		Albeo Trust Managers Ltd.			
		Durrant Hse, Chiswell St, E C 1Y 4TT 01-588 6371			
99.4	83.6	Albeo Trust (3)	90.8	97.4e	6.26
77.7	69.9	Do Inc (3)	71.3	76.7e	9.08
		Allied Hambro Group Ltd.			
		Hambro Hse, Hutton, Essex. 01-588 2851			
97.4	78.1	Allied Capital	97.1	104.2	4.41
90.2	72.9	Do 1st	88.3	94.5e	6.11
80.4	66.4	Brit Inds	77.8	83.2	6.42
51.2	39.2	Growth & Inc	50.9	54.5	4.95
45.0	36.6	Elec & Ind Dev	45.0	48.2	5.19
71.4	53.7	Met Min & Cmdty	67.2	71.0	5.39
96.1	67.5	High Income	84.4	90.3	7.17
49.3	39.6	Equity Income	45.4	48.8e	7.53
70.6	49.9	Far East Exempt	70.6	73.4	1.02
126.8	118.6	U.S.A. Exempt	126.8	131.9	2.46
25.2	23.0	Japan Fund	24.2	25.5	0.24
35.1	27.6	International	34.7	37.1e	2.16
70.4	64.0	High Yield Fnd	64.3	68.9e	8.72
137.9	112.1	Hambro Fnd	133.1	142.4	6.07
139.5	110.2	Do Recovery	138.5	148.2	5.13
55.8	46.3	Do Smaller	55.8	59.7	4.36
184.4	138.0	Do Accum	182.7	195.5	4.65
67.3	50.9	2nd Smaller	67.0	71.7e	4.19
75.0	56.5	Secs of America	75.9	80.3	1.90
66.6	44.4	Pacific Fnd	66.5	71.3e	1.13
70.1	53.9	Overseas Earl	68.9	73.7e	5.01
89.4	50.1	Exempt Smaller	88.4	92.8	4.31
27.0	25.0	Govt Secs	25.3	28.0	11.92
50.5	40.7	Income Exempt	50.5	53.0e	8.02
		Arbuthnot Securities Ltd.			
		37 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BY 01-236 5281			
110.6	77.0	Commodity (5)	96.3	102.6	2.54
173.1	116.6	Do Accum (5)	150.7	162.1	2.54
83.4	60.6	10% W'draw (5)	72.7	78.1	2.54
42.3	27.3	E & Int Fund	42.3	45.5e	1.00
29.5	19.6	Do W'draw (2)	29.0	31.2e	1.00
100.5	90.6	Extra Income	97.5	104.0	9.51
119.0	103.2	Do Accum	116.4	125.2	9.51
27.0	19.9	Fin & Prop (3)	27.0	29.1	3.78
131.7	40.8	Foreign (4)	131.7	137.2	1.00
47.3	40.8	Gilt & Fixed	42.1	44.7e	12.43
47.9	40.8	Do Accum	45.3	47.7e	12.43
47.3	33.4	Growth Fund	44.8	47.2	4.24
59.5	42.2	Do Accum	59.0	63.5	4.24
47.0	35.2	High Income	37.9	40.9e	9.36
64.5	52.6	Do Accum	64.5	69.4e	9.36
		Charince Charities Narrower-Range Fund.			
		15 Moorgate, London, EC2. 01-638 4121			
122.1	108.2	Income (3)	—	118.0	11.46
204.0	161.6	Do Accum (34)	—	202.3	11.86
		Charities Official Investment Fund.			
		77 London Wall, London, EC2. 01-588 1815			
139.4	129.6	Inc* (24)	—	152.1	7.83
301.6	250.0	Accum* (24)	—	373.3	—
		Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd.			
		11 New St, London, EC2M 4TP. 01-283 2632			
30.6	21.1	American Fnd	29.4	30.9e	1.84
72.7	43.1	Basic Resources	60.6	65.7	1.35
37.8	23.3	Far Eastern	37.3	41.0	1.79
39.6	36.4	High Income	37.8	40.1	11.44
29.3	22.7	Inc & Growth	25.9	29.1	7.93
47.9	28.9	International	47.9	52.0	1.64
24.8	22.8	Pref & Gilts	21.4	23.2	14.04
28.9	23.7	Smaller Co's	28.8	31.2e	3.34
		Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd.			
		4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. 031-226 4931			
41.9	25.2	American Fnd	41.2	44.4	0.56
79.3	55.9	International	79.3	85.6	1.83
51.0	41.7	Reserves Fnd	50.1	54.1e	5.43
41.1	40.4	High Dist	44.1	47.9e	9.06
		E. F. Winchester Fund Mngt Ltd.			
		44 Bloomsbury Sq, WC1A 2RA. 01-623 9903			
17.7	15.7	Gt Winchester	17.6	19.4	7.28
26.0	21.9	Do Overseas	26.0	28.9	3.68
		Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers Ltd.			
		Amersham Rd, H Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 32915			
130.8	71.0	Equity & Law	90.1	94.8	4.04
		Fidelity International Management Ltd.			
		62/63 Queen St, London, EC4R 1AD. 01-248 4897			
31.3	25.2	Gilt & Fxd Int	24.8	26.2	12.11
32.7	25.8	Growth & Inc	31.8	34.3	8.91
40.7	25.3	Special Sits	39.2	42.2	1.98
34.5	22.3	American	34.3	36.9	0.75
27.2	25.2	Am Special Sits	25.8	27.9	0.34
26.7	25.5	Maxi Inc Equity	26.5	28.5e	8.90
		James Finlay Unit Trust Management Ltd.			
		10-14 West Nile St, Glasgow. 041-204 1321			
38.4	28.6	Int (3)	36.9	39.7	2.21
47.6	32.2	Accum (3)	45.8	49.2	2.21
36.5	33.1	Inc (3)	36.8	39.2	9.75
26.7	19.1	World Energy	18.7	19.1	1.89
40.2	30.4	Fund Inv (3)	38.7	41.6	5.09
		Framlington Unit Management Ltd.			
		64 London Wall, EC2. 01-628 5181			
76.8	42.6	American	76.8	81.8	0.62
71.9	47.5	Am Turnaround	71.0	75.8	1.57
60.4	50.2	Capital	60.4	64.4	5.17
62.8	50.2	Do Accum	62.8	67.0	5.17
51.8	47.4	Extra Income	50.2	53.6e	9.85
50.0	50.0	Cons & Gilt	48.0	50.4	10.10
50.0	50.0	Do Accum	48.0	50.4	10.10
41.0	35.4	Income	41.0	43.9	7.66

هكذا من الأصل

Stock Exchange Prices

Quiet start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 2 Dealings End, March 13. § Contango Day, March 16. Settlement Day, March 23

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

[illegible]

MEDIUMS

[illegible]

LONGS

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

[illegible]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[illegible]

DOLLAR STOCKS

[illegible]

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

[illegible]

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

[illegible]

C — E

[illegible]

F — H

[illegible]

I — L

[illegible]

M — N

[illegible]

O — S

[illegible]

T — Z

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

SHIPPING

[illegible]

MINES

[illegible]

OIL

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RUBBER

[illegible]

TEA

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
219	132¼	Warren Plant	212	..	14.3b	6.7	..

MISCELLANEOUS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	28	..	6.8	24.2	..
34½	29½	Essex Wtr 4.5%	£33	..	500	15.2	..
27½	19	Gt Nthn Tele	£27½	..	153	6.5	8.6
353	197	Imp Cont Gas	248	−2	10.1	4.1	11.7
185	93	Milford Docks	115	..	9.8	8.5	..
147	89	Nesco Inv	147	..	10.0	6.8	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£35	..	500	14.3	..

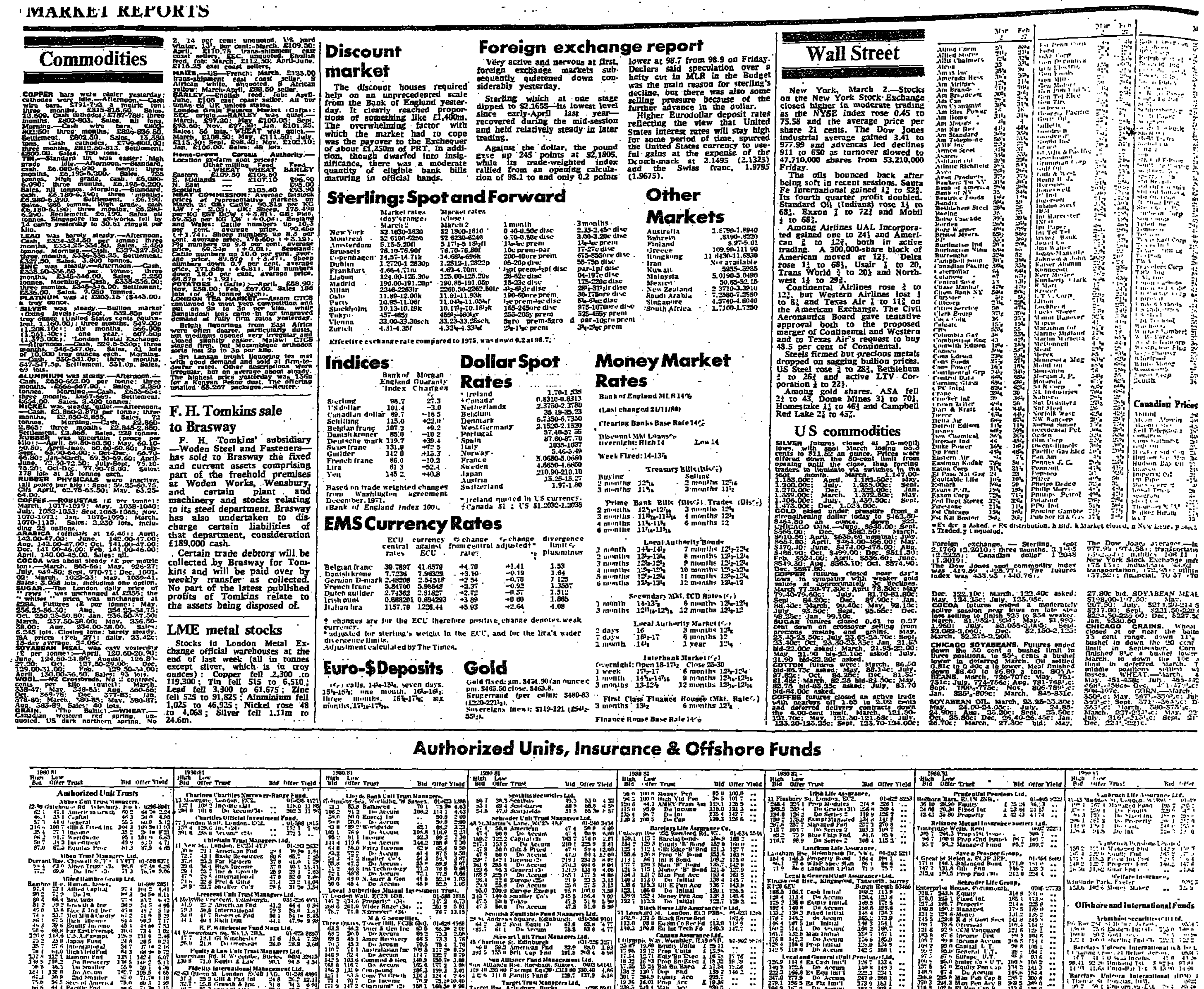
• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Allied London Prop 8½% Cnv 1999 (‡)	£105½
Bristol Water 8% Red Pref 1986 (‡b)	£11⅞
British Aerospace 50p Ord (150)	177
Dunbar Group £1 Ord (303)	415−5
Espley-Tyas Prop Grp 25p Ord (75)	93
Exchequer 12% Cnv 1985 (‡)	£97¾−1/16
Exchequer 12% 'A' 1995 (‡)	£91⅝−⅛
Exchequer 12¾% 'B' 1999 (‡h)	£09⅝−⅛
Ldn Merchant Secs 7¾% Cnv Ln 2000-05	£44½−1
Mid-Sussex Water 8% Red Pref 1986 (‡b)	£12
New Darien Oil Trust 25p Ord (100)	101
New Tokyo Inv Trust 50p Ord	218½
Oil and Gas Production 2c Ord (42)	39
Portals 9¼% Cnv 1994-2000 (‡)	£120¼
Treasury 12% 1986 (‡h)	£20¼−¼
Treasury 11½% 1989 'A' (‡)	£91⅝−¼
Treasury 11¾% 2003-2007 'A' (‡)	£88⅞−½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Broken Hill Props (473)		150 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. ‡ Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £60 paid b. £10 paid. f Fully paid. g £30 paid, h £20 paid.



Commodities

COPPER bars were easier yesterday: cathodes were idle.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £791-793 a metric ton: three months, £815-818.50. Sales, 13,600. Cash cathodes, £787-788: three months, £802-803. Sales, nil tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £803-803.50: three months, £826-826.50. Settlement, £802.50. Sales, 13,350 tons. Cash cathodes, £799-800.00: three months, £812.50-813. Settlement, £800.00. Sales, 750 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin was easier: high grade idle.—Afternoon.—Standard, cash, £6,080-6,090 a tonne: three months, £6,195-6,300. Sales, 725 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,080-6,090: three months, £6,195-6,200. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash, £6,180-6,190: three months, £6,280-6,290. Settlement, £6,190. Sales, 285 tonnes. High grade, cash £6,180-6,190: three months, £6,280-6,290. Settlement, £6,190. Sales nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works fell by 14 cents yesterday to 30.61 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £324-324.50 per tonne: three months, £334.25-334.50. Sales, 2,450 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £327-327.50: three months, £336-336.25. Settlement, £327.50. Sales, 3,800 tonnes.

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £335.50-336.50 per tonne: three months, £345-346.00. Sales, 2,250 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £335-336.00: three months, £345-346.00. Settlement, £336.00. Sales, 9,050 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £203.15 ($443.00) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 532.85p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,160.00); three months, 549.00p (1,208.10c); six months, 566.00p (1,261.30c); one year, 607.50p (1,375.00c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 529.5-530p; three months, 546-547.0p. Sales, 41 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 530-531.0p: three months, 547-547.5p. Settlement, 531.0p. Sales, 69 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £650-652.00 per tonne: three months, £666-667.00. Sales, 2,350 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £653-654: three months, £667-669. Settlement, £654.00. Sales, 2,400 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady, quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,860-2,870 per tonne: three months, £2,850-2,855. Sales, 72 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,860-2,865: three months £2,845-2,850. Settlement, £2,865. Sales, 228 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo):—April, 59.50-60.50: May, 60.10-60.50: April-June, 60.60-60.80: July-Sept, 63.90-64.00: Oct-Dec, 66.70-66.80: Jan-March, 69.50-69.60: April-June, 72.30-72.50: July-Sept, 75.10-75.20: Oct-Dec, 77.90-78.00. Sales: 178 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were inactive (all pence per kilo): Spot: 59.25-60.75. Cifs April, 62.75-63.50: May, 63.25-64.00.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): March, 1017-1019: May, 1038-1040: July, 1052-1053: Sept. 1063-1065: Nov. 1070-1071: Jan. 1075-1095: March, 1070-1115. Sales: 2,230 lots, including 35 options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.45): April, 142.00-47.00: June, 142.00-47.00: Aug, 143.00-47.00: Oct, 141.00-47.00: Dec, 141.00-46.00: Feb, 141.00-46.00: April, 140.00-45.00. Sales: nil.

COCOA was about steady (£ per metric ton).—March, 865-66: May, 926-27: July, 949-50: Sept, 970-71: Dec, 1001-02: March, 1022-23: May, 1039-41. Sales: 3,068 lots, including one option.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was unchanged at £255; the "whites" price was unchanged at £284. Futures (£ per tonne): May, 256.25-56.30: Aug, 254.25-54.75: Oct, 250.25-50.50: Jan, 236.50-37.50: March, 237.50-38.00: May, 236.50-38.00: Aug, 234.00-38.00. Sales: 6,245 lots. Closing tone: barely steady. ISA prices (Feb 27): daily, 23.42c: 15-day average, 24.06c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was easy yesterday (£ per tonne):—April, 120.60-20.90: June, 124.50-24.80: August, 126.80-27.20: Oct, 127.50-29.00: Dec, 129.00-31.00: Feb, 129.50-34.00: April, 130.00-36.50. Sales: 93 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet): March, 338-47: May, 348-53: Aug, 360-66: Oct, 369-76: Dec, 377-83: Jan, 378-80: March, 380-85: May, 380-87: Aug, 385-89. Sales: 40 lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic).—**WHEAT.**—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. US dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: unquoted. US hard Winter, 13½ per cent:—March, £109.50: April, £110.75 trans-shipment east coast sellers. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob: March, £112.50: April-June, £116.25 east coast sellers.

MAIZE.—US—French: March, £123.00 trans-shipment east coast seller. S African white, unquoted. S African yellow: March-April, £88.50 seller.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: April-June, £105 east coast seller. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta): EEC origin.—**BARLEY** was quiet.—March, £97.20: May £100.05: Sept, £93.60: Nov, £97.30: Jan, £101.25. Sales: 56 lots. **WHEAT** was quiet.—March, £108.50: May, £111.50: July, £115.30: Sept, £98.40: Nov, £102.10: Jan, £106.00. Sales: 48 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	£109.50	£105.60	—
E. Midlands	—	£107.10	£96.90
N. East	—	—	£95.00
Scotland	—	£105.40	£93.90

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 2: GB: Cattle, 90.31p per KG LW (+2.05). UK: Sheep, 175.49p per KG EST DCW (+5.81). GB: Pigs, 69.33p per KG LW (+0.04). England and Wales: Cattle numbers up 10.3 per cent, average price, 90.45p (+1.74). Sheep numbers up 8.3 per cent, average price, 176.60p (+3.12). Pig numbers up 9.5 per cent, average price, 69.34p (+0.01). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 10.0 per cent, average price, 89.67p (+3.47). Sheep numbers down 0.7 per cent, average price, 171.68p (+6.81). Pig numbers down 18.0 per cent, average price, 68.57p (+1.92).

POTATOES (Gafta):—April, £58.90: Nov, £58.00: Feb, £67.00. Sales 186 lots (of 40 tonnes each).

LONDON TEA MARKET.—Assam CTCS continued to meet keen competition and put on 3p to 5p per kilo, while Bangladesh teas came in for improved demand at fully firm rates yesterday.

Bright liquorings from East Africa were often dearer, particularly dusts, but mediums opened very irregular and closed slightly easier. Malawi CTCS stayed firm, but Mozambique orthodox sorts lost 2p to 3p per kilo.

Sri Lankan bright liquoring teas met with good demand and sold at firm-to-dearer rates. Other descriptions were irregular, but on average about steady. The highest price yesterday was 136p for a Kenyan Pekoe dust. The offering totalled 55,267 packages.—Reuter.

F. H. Tomkins sale to Brasway

F. H. Tomkins' subsidiary—Woden Steel and Fasteners—has sold to Brasway the fixed and current assets comprising part of the freehold premises at Woden Works, Wensbury, and certain plant and machinery and stocks relating to its steel department. Brasway has also undertaken to discharge certain liabilities of that department, consideration £189,000 cash.

Certain trade debtors will be collected by Brasway for Tomkins and will be paid over by weekly transfer as collected. No part of the latest published profits of Tomkins relate to the assets being disposed of.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): Copper fell 2,300 to 119,300; Tin fell 515 to 6,510; Lead fell 3,300 to 61,675; Zinc fell 525 to 91,825; Aluminium fell 1,025 to 46,925; Nickel rose 48 to 4,068; Silver fell 1.11m to 24.6m.

Discount market

The discount houses required help on an unprecedented scale from the Bank of England yesterday. It clearly reached proportions of something like £1,400m. The overwhelming factor with which the market had to cope was the payover to the Exchequer of about £1,250m of PRT. In addition, though dwarfed into insignificance, there was a moderate quantity of eligible bank bills maturing in official hands.

Foreign exchange report

Very active and nervous at first, foreign exchange markets subsequently quietened down considerably yesterday.

Sterling which at one stage dipped to $2.1655—its lowest level since early-April last year—recovered during the mid-session and held relatively steady in later trading.

Against the dollar, the pound gave up 245 points at $2.1805, while its trade-weighted index rallied from an opening calculation of 98.1 to end only 0.2 points lower at 98.7 from 98.9 on Friday. Dealers said speculation over a hefty cut in MLR in the Budget was the main reason for sterling's decline, but there was also some selling pressure because of the further advance in the dollar.

Higher Eurodollar deposit rates reflecting the view that United States interest rates will stay high for some period of time, spurred the United States currency to useful gains at the expense of the Deutsch-mark at 2.1495 (2.1325) and the Swiss franc, 1.9795 (1.9675).

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) March 2	Market rates (close) March 2	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.1630-1830	$2.1800-1810	0.40-0.50c disc	2.35-2.45c disc
Montreal	$2.6100-6250	$2.6230-6240	0.70-0.80c disc	3.00-3.20c disc
Amsterdam	5.15-5.20fl	5.17½-5.18½fl	1¼-¾c prem	1¼-¾c prem
Brussels	76.10-76.90f	76.70-76.80f	10c prem-par	17-27c disc
Copenhagen	14.57-14.71k	14.68¾-69¾k	200-40ore prem	675-855ore disc
Dublin	1.2720-1.2830p	1.2812-1.2822p	05-20p disc	55-75p disc
Frankfurt	4.66-4.71m	4.69-4.70m	½pf prem-½pf disc	par-1pf disc
Lisbon	124.00-125.30e	125.00-125.20e	28-62c disc	04-197c disc
Madrid	190.00-191.20p	190.85-191.05p	15-23c disc	115-220c disc
Milan	2246-2263lr	2260.50-2262.50lr	4½-6½lr disc	28½-31½lr disc
Oslo	11.89-12.00k	11.91-11.93k	190-60ore prem	30-175ore disc
Paris	10.95-11.06f	11.04¾-11.05¾f	½c prem-½c disc	5¾-6¾c disc
Stockholm	10.13-10.19k	10.17½-10.18½k	165-245ore disc	975-1070ore disc
Tokyo	457-465y	459½-460½y	255-205y prem	525-455y prem
Vienna	33.00-33.30sch	33.23-33.28sch	5gro prem-5gro d	par-10gro prem
Zurich	4.31-4.35f	4.32¾-4.33¾f	2¼-1¾c prem	3¾-2¾c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.2 at 98.7.

Other Markets

Australia	1.8790-1.8940
Bahrein	.8190-.8220
Finland	8.97-9.01
Greece	109.90-111.90
Hongkong	11.6430-11.6830
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	.5935-.5985
Malaysia	5.0190-5.0490
Mexico	50.65-52.15
New Zealand	2.3710-3.3910
Saudi Arabia	7.2380-7.2880
Singapore	4.5740-4.6040
South Africa	1.7100-1.7250

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	98.7	27.3
US dollar	101.4	−3.0
Canadian dollar	89.7	−18.5
Schilling	115.0	+22.0
Belgian franc	107.2	+9.2
Danish kroner	85.0	−10.2
Deutsche mark	119.7	+39.4
Swiss franc	131.9	+72.5
Guilder	112.0	+15.3
French franc	86.0	−10.2
Lira	61.3	−52.4
Yen	145.2	+40.8

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.70-1.535
† Canada	0.8310-0.8313
Netherlands	2.3750-2.3780
Belgium	35.19-35.23
Denmark	6.7350-6.7330
West Germany	2.1520-2.1520
Portugal	57.40-57.55
Spain	87.60-87.70
Italy	1035-1037
Norway	5.46-5.49
France	5.0680-5.0680
Sweden	4.6650-4.6650
Japan	210.90-210.10
Austria	15.25-15.27
Switzerland	1.97-1.80

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $1.2032-1.2036

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.6579	+4.70	+1.41	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.96329	+3.10	−0.19	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.54518	+2.54	−0.75	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.98548	+2.37	−0.92	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81827	+2.72	−0.57	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.694293	+3.89	+0.60	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1226.44	+5.93	+2.64	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 14¼-13¾, seven days, 15¼-15⅝; one month, 16⅛-16½; three months, 16⅝-17⅛; six months, 17⅛-17⅝.

Gold

Gold fixed: am. $474.50 (an ounce); pm. $465.50 close, $465.8.
Krugerrand (per coin): $480-83 (£220-221½).
Sovereigns (new): $119-121 (£54½-55½).

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 14 Low 14

Week Fixed: 14-13⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⅝	2 months	12⁷⁄₁₆
3 months	11⅝	3 months	11½

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	12⅝-12⁷⁄₁₆	3 months	12⅞
3 months	11¹⁵⁄₁₆-11¹³⁄₁₆	4 months	12⅞
4 months	11¾-11⅝	6 months	12
6 months	11⁷⁄₁₆-11⁵⁄₁₆		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	14½-14½	7 months	12½-12¼
2 months	13½-13¼	8 months	12½-12¼
3 months	12⅞-12½	9 months	12½-12¼
4 months	12⅝-12⅜	10 months	12½-12¼
5 months	12½-12¼	11 months	12½-12¼
6 months	12⅜-12⅛	12 months	12⅛-12

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	14-13⅞	6 months	12⅜-12⅛
3 months	12¹¹⁄₁₆-12⁹⁄₁₆	12 months	12⅛-12

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	16	3 months	12⅞
7 days	16½-17	6 months	12
1 month	14⅛	1 year	12¼

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 18-17½		Close 25-30	
1 week	17½-17	6 months	12⅜-12⅛
1 month	14⅝-14⁷⁄₁₆	9 months	12⁵⁄₁₆-12³⁄₁₆
3 months	13-12⅞	12 months	12⁵⁄₁₆-12³⁄₁₆

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate %)
3 months 13½ 6 months 12⅞

Finance House Base Rate 14%

Wall Street

New York, March 2.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher in moderate trading as the NYSE index rose 0.45 to 75.58 and the average price per share 21 cents. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 3.41 to 977.99 and advances led declines 911 to 650 as turnover slowed to 47,710,000 shares from 53,210,000 Friday.

The oils bounced back after being soft in recent sessions. Santa Fe International gained 1⅞ to 52⅝. Its fourth quarter profit doubled. Standard Oil (Indiana) rose 1¼ to 68½. Exxon ⅞ to 72½ and Mobil ½ to 68½.

Among Airlines UAL Incorporated gained one to 24½ and American ⅝ to 12⅞, both in active trading. A 300,000-share block of American moved at 12½. Delta rose 1½ to 68½, Usair ⅞ to 20, Trans World ⅞ to 20½ and Northwest 1¼ to 29½.

Continental Airlines rose ⅞ to 12½, but Western Airlines lost ½ to 8½ and Texas Air ⅞ to 11½ on the American Exchange. The Civil Aeronautics Board gave tentative approval both to the proposed merger of Continental and Western and to Texas Air's request to buy 48.5 per cent of Continental.

Steels firmed but precious metals dropped on sagging bullion prices. US Steel rose ⅞ to 28½, Bethlehem ⅞ to 26½ and active LTV Corporation ⅛ to 22½.

Among gold shares, ASA fell 2½ to 43, Dome Mines 3½ to 70½, Homestake 1½ to 46½ and Campbell Red Lake 2⅞ to 45⅞.

US commodities

SILVER futures closed at 10-month lows, with spot March losing 65.3 cents to $11.52 an ounce. Prices were offered down the 50-cent limit from opening until the close, thus forcing traders to liquidate via switches in the spot month. March, 1,147.00-1,153.00c; April, 1,183.50c; May, 1,200.00c; July, 1,235.00c; Sept, 1,270.00c; Dec, 1,322.00c; Jan, 1,339.00c; March, 1,372.50c; May, 1,406.00c; July, 1,439.50c; Sept, 1,473.00c; Dec, 1,523.00c.

GOLD eased under pressure from a strengthening dollar today to $462.50-$464.50 an ounce, down $22. CHICAGO IMM.—June, $546.00; Sept, $565.00; Dec, $582.50; March, $610.50; April, $635.60 nominal; July, $654.80; April, $464.00-466.00; May, $470.40; June, $474.00-476.00; Aug, $486.90; Oct, $499.00; Dec, $511.50; Feb, $524.00; April, $536.60; June, $549.30; Aug, $563.10; Oct, $574.90; Dec, $587.80.

COPPER futures closed near day's lows, in sympathy with weaker gold values at approximately 3c declines. March 77.20-77.30c; April 78.30c; May 79.40-79.60c; July, 81.70-81.80c; Sept, 84.20c; Dec, 87.90c; Jan, 88.40c; March, 90.40c; May, 92.15c; July, 93.50c; Sept, 95.65c; Dec, 98.25c; Jan, 99.10c.

SUGAR futures closed 0.61 to 0.27 cent down on crossover selling from precious metals and grains. May, 23.45-23.50c; July 23.65-23.70c; Sept, 23.40c; Oct, 23.30-23.35c; Jan, 21.85 bid-22.00c asked; March, 21.95-22.00; May, 21.90 bid-22.10c asked; July, 21.90 bid-22.30c asked.

COTTON futures were: March, 86.50 bid-86.75c asked; May, 88.14c; July, 87.82c; Oct, 84.25c; Dec, 81.50-81.48c; March, 82.25 bid-83.50c; May, 82.75 bid-83.25c asked; July, 83.70 bid-84.00c asked.

COFFEE futures closed an active trade with nearbys off 1.65 to 2.02 cents and deferred delivery contracts down the 4.00-cent limit. March, 121.50-131.70c; May, 121.30-121.68c; July, 123.20-123.25c; Sept, 123.70-124.00c; Dec, 122.10c; March, 122.40c asked; May, 124.35c; July, 125.05c.

COCOA futures ended a moderately active session near lows on late stop loss selling to finish $23 to $54 weaker. March, $1,952-1,934; May, $1,995-1,960; July, $2,035-2,005; Sept, $2,082-2,060; Dec, $2,150-2,125; March, $2,215-2,200.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Futures ended down the 30 cent a bushel limit in three positions, to 25½ cents a bushel lower in deferred March. Oil settled 0.81c to 0.40c a lb lower. Meal finished down $8.40 to $6.80 a ton. SOYABEANS. March, 726-707c; May, 751-751c; July, 774-756c; Aug, 781-768½c; Sept, 788½-775c; Nov, 806-789½c; Jan, 825½-809c; March, 845-831c.

SOYABEAN OIL. March, 23.25-23.30c; May, 24.00-24.05c; July, 24.85-24.90c; Aug, 25.20c; Sept, 25.50c; Oct, 25.80c; Dec, 26.40-26.45c; Jan, 26.70c; March, 27.30c bid; May, 27.80c bid. **SOYABEAN MEAL** May, $198.00-197.50; July, $207.50; Aug, $211.20-214.5; $217.80; Sept, $221.50-222; $224.50-225.00; Dec, $227.50; Jan, $230.50.

CHICAGO GRAINS. Wheat closed at or near the bottom of a 25 cent range, down 11½ a bushel to down the 20 cent limit in September. Corn finished 8½c a bushel lower in March, to down the 10c a limit in deferred March. The middle positions settled with losses. WHEAT.—March, 451-438c; May, 451-438c; July, 455-442; 468½-458c; Dec, 471-479½c; 508-497c. CORN.—March, 350½c; May, 367-350½c; July, 355½c; Sept, 371-363½c; Dec, 363½c; March, 380-375½c; March, 327-323½c; May, 22[illegible]; July, 316½-313½c; Sept, 21[illegible]; Dec, 224½-221c.

	Mar 2	Feb 27
Allied Chem	53	53¼
Allied Stores	21¼	21¼
Allis Chalmers	32⅝	32¾
Alcoa	33	[illegible]
Amax Inc	38¼	39
Amerada Hess	30⅛	30½
Am Airlines	12⅞	11¾
Am Brands	71⅞	70½
Am Broadcast	30⅝	30⅛
Am Can	29⅞	29⅞
Am Cyanamid	30⅝	31⅛
Am Elec Power	16	16
Am Home	31¼	31⅛
Am Motors	4⅛	4
Am Nat Res	44½	44⅝
Am Standard	36⅞	36⅝
Am Telephone	52⅞	53⅛
AMF Inc	23⅜	23¾
Armco Steel	37⅝	37
Asarco	33⅞	33⅞
Ashland Oil	37⅞	37¾
Atlantic Richfield	55⅞	53⅞
Avco	26⅜	26⅛
Avon Products	37⅞	37⅞
Bankers Tst NY	30⅞	30⅞
Bank of America	29⅞	29⅞
Bank of NY	35	34⅞
Beatrice Foods	19⅞	19⅞
Bendix	50⅞	50
Bethlehem Steel	26⅞	26
Boeing	35	35
Boise Cascade	39⅞	39⅞
Borden	26⅞	26⅞
Borg Warner	40⅞	39⅞
Bristol Myers	55⅞	55⅞
BP	35⅞	36⅞
Burlington Ind	20⅞	20⅞
Burlington Nthn	65⅞	65
Burroughs	52⅞	52
Campbell Soup	30⅞	30⅞
Canadian Pacific	36⅞	35⅞
Caterpillar	64	64⅞
Celanese	67	67⅞
Central Soya	13	13⅞
Chase Manhat	47⅞	47⅞
Chem Bank NY	50⅞	50⅞
Chrysler	5⅞	5⅞
Citicorp	23⅞	22⅞
Cities Service	50	47⅞
Clark Equip	37⅞	36⅞
Coca Cola	36	35⅞
Colgate	15⅞	15⅞
CBS	53⅞	53
Columbia Gas	38	35⅞
Combustion Eng	43	42⅞
Comwlth Edison	19⅞	18⅞
Conoco	59⅞	58⅞
Cons Edison	23⅞	23⅞
Cons Foods	27⅞	27⅞
Cons Power	16⅞	16⅞
Continental Grp	34⅞	34⅞
Control Data	66⅞	65⅞
Corning Glass	68⅞	69⅞
CPC Intnl	62⅞	62⅞
Crane	39⅞	39
Crocker Int	36⅞	36⅞
Crown Zeller	49⅞	50
Dart & Kraft	44⅞	44⅞
Deere	45⅞	44⅞
Delta Air	68⅞	67⅞
Detroit Edison	11⅞	11⅞
Disney	46⅞	39⅞
Dow Chemical	36⅞	36⅞
Dresser Ind	46	45⅞
Duke Power	16⅞	16⅞
Du Pont	45⅞	45⅞
Eastern Air	8⅞	7⅞
Eastman Kodak	79⅞	80
Eaton Corp	31⅞	31⅞
El Paso Nat Gas	24	23
Equitable Life	10⅞	10⅞
Esmark	50⅞	50
Evans P. D.	19⅞	19⅞
Exxon Corp	72⅞	71⅞
Fed Dept Stores	32⅞	33⅞
Firestone	11⅞	11⅞
Fst Chicago	15⅞	16⅞
Fst Nat Boston	30⅞	30⅞

	Mar 2	Feb 27
Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]
GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Pub Util NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Tel Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]
Genesco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Getty Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodrich	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodyear	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gould Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grace	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gt Atlc & Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Greyhound	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grumman Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf & West	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heinz H. J.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hercules	[illegible]	[illegible]
Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]
IC Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ingersoll	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Harvester	[illegible]	[illegible]
INCO	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Tel Tel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Irving Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jewel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jim Walter	[illegible]	[illegible]
Johns-Manville	[illegible]	[illegible]
Johnson & John	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kaiser Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kennecott	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kerr McGee	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kimberly Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]
K Mart	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kroger	[illegible]	[illegible]
L.T.V. Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Litton	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lockheed	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lucky Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Manuf Hanover	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mapco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marathon Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marine Midland	[illegible]	[illegible]
Martin Marietta	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDonnell	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mead	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Minnesota Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mobil Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morgan J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorola	[illegible]	[illegible]
NCR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
NL Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nabisco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat Distillers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norfolk West	[illegible]	[illegible]
NW Bancorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norton Simon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ogden	[illegible]	[illegible]
Olin Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Owens-Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Gas Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pan Am	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penney J. C.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pennzoil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pfizer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	[illegible]	[illegible]
Philip Morris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phillips Petrol	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polaroid	[illegible]	[illegible]
PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Proctor Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Mar 2	Feb 27
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Canadian Prices

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.1760 (2.2010); three months, 2.1505 (2.2225); Canadian dollar 1.2048 (1.2019).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 419.59 (425.77). The futures index was 433.93 (440.76).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials 977.99 (974.58); transportation [illegible]; utilities 108.11 [illegible]. New York Stock Exchange index 75.13 [illegible]; industrials, 84.62 [illegible]; transportation, 72.45 [illegible]; utilities 37.52 [illegible]; financial, 70.37 [illegible].

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Authorized Unit Trusts			
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers. 72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296-5941			
62.1	47.1	American Growth	60.2	64.7	2.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

PERSONAL CHOICE

Diana Rigg as the bored and beautiful Hedda with Denis Lill her adoring husband George in tonight's ITV production of Ibsen's masterpiece, Hedda Gabler (9.30)

● Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill-Norton continues his seven-part series on the ships of the Royal Navy with a look at the history and modern-day role of the once-formidable gunboat in tonight's edition of Seapower (BBC 1, 7.40). Since the days when "sending a gunboat" was our answer to any problem concerning British sovereignty and the mere presence of one of these ships quickly quelled an uprising the role of this type of ship has become, to quote Lord Hill-Norton, "the maritime policeman on the beat". The beat nowadays is around the coasts of Great Britain and in the programme we join HMS Anglesey on its policing job as an off-shore patrol vessel of the Fishery Protection Squadron receiving its orders not from the Admiralty, but the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Reminders of past heroic deeds are shown in film clips of the Amethyst during the famous Yangtse Incident and the American vessel Panay being strafed and sunk, by accident, according to the perpetrators, Japan. Happily, my criticism of Lord Hill-Norton's delivery in his first programme, which produced a number of letters leaping to his defence, does not apply this evening because he comes over in a more relaxed way.

● The collie and his shepherd master again show off their sometimes telepathic relationship when One Man and his Dog (BBC 2, 9.50 pm) returns to our screens for a fifth series. The beautiful Mallean Mountain is the setting for this eight programme competition and the first competitors for this coveted championship hail from Scotland. The three shepherds and their dogs each have to control seven sheep and points are scored for various manoeuvres performed by the collie with only his intelligence and his masters call to guide him. The programme should be required viewing for all town dwellers who hanker for the country life.

● To mark the 100th anniversary of his birth Radio 4 presents a portrait of Ernest Bevin entitled The Squat Goalie (7.50 pm). In the programme Anthony Howard, with the help of the memories and voices of leading politicians, trade unionists and in one case an actor, Peter Ustinov, reassesses the career of this giant of a man who overcame a humble background to become the leader of the largest trade union and, to some, the greatest Foreign Secretary of the century. The curious title of the programme is a description of him by John J. McCloy, a former Military Governor of Germany.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Insect Diversity. 7.05 Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure. 7.30 Your Own Optics Laboratory. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools, Colleges: The news in French. 9.35 Maths. 9.57 Language development for young children. 10.16 Look and Read. 10.38 Religious and Moral Education. 11.00 Watch. 11.17 Television Club. 11.38 The Merchant of Venice discussed. 12.05 pm Nixon and the Real War.
12.45 News.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Today the programme launches an appeal to raise £10,000 to provide a "Fun-decker Playbus" for disabled children. In addition there will be the regular weekly feature Family Matters in which domestic problems are discussed by a team of experts. 1.45 Pigeon Street. 2.00 You and Me. For four and five year olds (r).
2.14 For Schools, Colleges: German conversation. 2.40 Home Economics. Closedown at 3.00.
3.20 Pobol y Cwm. Welsh serial. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2). 4.20 Secret Squirrel. Cartoon adventures of a nut-loving detective (r). 4.25 Jackanory. Sherrie Hewson reads from the novel by Dorothy Edwards. A Strong and Willing Girl. 4.40 Isla and the Farm on the Hill. The first of five programmes describing what life is like at different times of the year on a Welsh hill farm. Presented by Isla St Clair (r). 5.05 Newsround with Paul McDowell. 5.10 Children of Fire Mountain. A new thirteen part adventure serial based in 1900 New Zealand.
5.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall. 5.55 Regional news magazines. 6.20 Nationwide. Included tonight is The Fun of the Fair in which Bob Wellings tries out the stocks at Alnwick, Northumberland.
6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four cartoons featuring Tom and Jerry and Bugs Bunny. 7.15 Taxi. American comedy series about the drivers and passengers of the Sunshine Cab Company of New York.
7.40 Seapower. In the third of his series Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton discusses the role of the modern Gunboat (see Personal Choice). 8.10 When the Boat Comes In. Jack Ford is asked to secure an Argentinian contract to build a warship at the shipyard at Gallowshield.
9.00 News read by Jan Leeming.
9.25 Play: Sorry by Carol Bunyan. Nicholas Ball stars in this play about a working day in the life of two lady colleagues in an office.
11.05 Omnibus: Punch and Judy. A film that traces the Punch character from Piccini to the present day.
11.50 News headlines.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Cymru/Wales: 11.38 am-12.03 pm Dechrau Siarad (16). 2.20-2.55 Closedown. 5.10-5.40 Bilidowcar. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 7.10-7.40 Pobol Y Cwm. 11.05-11.55 Music Makers. 11.55 News and weather. Scotland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools. Finding History. 12.40 pm-12.45 The Scottish News. 3.20-3.55 Closedown. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 6.45-7.15 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. 11.05-11.35 Current Account. 11.35-12.25 am Omnibus: "Dallas—The Big Store". 12.25 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools. 3.20 pm-3.53 Closedown. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 6.45-7.15 Make Mine Country. 11.50 News and weather. England: 5.55 pm-6.20 Regional Magazines. 6.45-7.15 East—It's Your Image. London and South East—Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands—Look! Hear! North—Hometown: Skegness. North East—Phone In Now. North West—Towards Tomorrow. South—Support Your Local Entertainer. South West—The Music Quiz: Final: Yeovil College v Plymouth College. West—Day Out: Bridgwater. 11.55 Close.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Charles Rennie Mackintosh. 7.05 Motion: Newton's Laws. 7.30 Santa Maria del Popolo. Closedown at 7.55.
10.00 Business World. For people who run their own small business (r). Closedown at 10.25.
11.00 Play School. The story today is Ann Reay's The House with Golden Windows and the programme is presented by Lesley Nightingale and Christopher Bramwell. 11.25 Speak for Yourself. Assistance for people who have difficulty speaking English. This morning the subject is Getting the Landlord to do Repairs (r). Closedown at 11.50.
2.30 Roads to Conflict. Part eight in a series of ten programmes explaining the causes of the Arab/Israeli dispute (r). 3.00 Propaganda with Facts. A series of five programmes about the cinema and public opinion in the 1940s. Part three: Today's Crisis . . . (r). 3.30 A Child's Place. The third of a five programme series on children's rights (r). Closedown at 3.55.
4.50 Open University: Search and Rescue. 5.15 Potsdam 1: The Meeting.
5.40 A Night Out* (1915) starring Charlie Chaplin and Ben Turpin. 6.10 Maggie. Part five of a serial based on Joan Lingard's Maggie books about a young Scots girl and her family. 6.35 Don't. A film following the life of a butterfly, from grub to grave (r).
6.55 News including a sub-titled synopsis for the hard-of-hearing.
7.05 Film: Apache (1954) starring Burt Lancaster and Jean Peters. Lancaster plays Massai, an Apache who refuses to submit when his leader, Geronimo, surrenders.
8.30 Russell Harty. His guests this evening are Lynn Seymour who will dance a specially choreographed rock number and American comedienne Elaine Stritch.
9.00 Pot Black. The last two games to decide who will go forward to the semi-finals: Ray Reardon meets Kirk Stevens and Alex Higgins plays Jim Wych.
9.50 One Man and his Dog. The first heat in a new competition for the Television International Sheepdog Championship. On the trials course at Cilycwm in mid-Wales three Scots and their dogs each have to control seven sheep (see Personal Choice).
10.30 The Ride of the Valkyrie*. A sad little silent film about disaster-prone opera singer (Zero Mostel) trying desperately to get to Covent Garden from Heathrow. With Frank Thornton and Julia Foster.
10.45 Newsnight. An analysis of the news that made today's headlines plus the latest news as it comes in.
11.30 International Bowls. Highlights of the first semi-final in the World Indoor Bowls Championship from the Coatbridge Bowling Club, Scotland: The programme ends at 12.05 am.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Maths concepts for the young; 9.47 Eastern Orthodox Christianity; 10.04 The origins and development of pop music; 10.26 Exploring Scotland's River Dee with Bill Grundy; 10.48 A-level chemistry; 11.05 Maths for seven to nine years olds; 11.22 Elementary science; 11.39 Leisure and the work ethic.
12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch: Adventures of a young boy and his pet dog (r).
12.10 pm Pipkins: Puppets for children; 12.30 The Sullivans: World War Two drama series about an Australian family.
1.00 News read by Peter Sissons; 1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.
1.30 Crown Court: Continuing the case of the hair-restoring practitioner accused of obtaining £75 by deception (r); 2.00 After Noon Plus: Following last week's programme when two marriage guidance counsellors gave their opinion of marriage in the 80s, an invited studio audience has a chance to ask the two, Ann Hooper and Philip Hodson, questions arising from the discussion.
2.45 The Mallens: Another episode in the lusty drama series set in Northumberland during the 19th century (r); 3.45 Barney Miller: Police captain Miller helps a woman whose father reappears after 28 years and promptly disowns her.
4.15 Dr Snuggles: Cartoon adventures of an old inventor; 4.20 Take a Chance: Another episode in the chequered history of a theatrical boarding house grandly called the Rose Marie Hotel; 4.45 Ace Reports: Live news and action for pre-teenagers with Sharron Davies, Bob Goody, Brian Jacks and Wayne Laryea; 5.15 Emmerdale Farm: Will Joe Sugden survive if Richard Anstey goes ahead with his plans for a beef herd?
5.45 News; 6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter.
6.25 Help! with Viv Tayler Gee: News about social projects and community action.
6.35 Crossroads; 7.00 Looks Familiar: Denis Norden with guests Chesney Allen, Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch wallow in nostalgia as they remember the stars and variety acts of the Thirties and Forties.
7.30 Bognor: The beginning of a new murder mystery for the reluctant hero of the Department of Trade: In this case he joins the staff of the Daily Globe when their gossip columnist is found dead; 8.00 Robin's Nest: Comedy series centred on a bistro, its owner and the staff.
8.30 Janet and Company: Among the impressions Miss Brown will be doing tonight are Liza Minelli, Sybil Fawlty and the Prime Minister.
9.00 News.
9.30 Play: Hedda Gabler by Henrick Ibsen starring Diana Rigg. This is possibly Ibsen's finest play. It has been adapted for television by John Osborne and is the story of a rich, bored woman who thirsts for power.
11.05 Canoeing into the Past: A filmed account of a canoe journey made by four Britons and an American in 1978 following the route taken by the Aleut Indians along the Aleutian Island chain. The narrator is Wynford Vaughan-Thomas.
12.05 am Close. Jack Peel reads Crossing the Bar by Tennyson.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.02 From Our Own Correspondent.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: The Seventh Rose, by Ken Whitmore.
11.00 News.
11.05 Play: Urn, by Henry Livings.
11.35 Wildlife.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.20 Down Your Way.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Wuthering Heights (2).†
4.00 Ray Gosling.
4.15 A Ferry for Ever.
4.45 The Trumpet Major (7).
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Brain of Britain.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now.
7.50 The Squat Goalie (see Personal Choice).
8.35 Smith on the Irwell.
9.05 In Touch.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Earthsearch (9).†
11.00 The Painted Veil (7).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.33 Shipping forecast.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Deutsch für die Oberstufe (6); Music Interlude; Voix de France (6); Music Interlude; News; Music Interlude; Playtime.
10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother.
11.00-12.00 Schools: Let's Move!; Music Interlude; Introducing Science.
2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: History—Long Ago; Secondary Science; Stories and Rhymes.
11.00 Study on 4: Allez-France! (18).
11.30-12.10 am Open University: Elements of Music; Everyday Sound Worlds.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Gershwin, Granados, Nielson, Borodin.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Wagner, Dvorak, Chopin, Debussy.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Stravinsky (incl Pno Conc).†
10.00 BBC Singers/S. Cleobury: Elgar, Finzi, Walton.†
10.45 Piano: Haydn, Schubert.†
11.40 Cello (Isserlis): Saxton (Toccata—1st bdcst), Dallapiccola.†
12.20 pm BBC Northern SO/Edelson, pt 1: Mussorgsky, Bartok (Pno Conc 3—Bingham).†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.25 BBCNSO, pt 2: Brahms (Serenade 1).†
2.15 Chamber music: M. Dring.†
2.55 Quartet (Dartington): Mozart (K499).†
3.30 Songs: Parry, Bingham, A. Benjamin, Musgrave.†
4.25 Jazz Today.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 BBCSO/B. Wright: Cannon, Bliss, Vaughan Williams (Job).†
8.20 Conversations with Artists: Carl Andre.
9.10 Talk: What Books I Please.
9.30 Quintet (Gabrieli/Essex): Mozart (K614).†
10.00 Music in Our Time: Philharmonia/A. Davis: Stockhausen (Jubilee)/Halffter: Halffter (Yes, speak out yes).†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Shostakovich.†

VHF
5.55 am-6.55 Open University: Popular Art; Sir Oliver Lodge; Instruments and their Music.
11.15 pm-12.55 am Open University: Computing and Computers; Microeconomics and You; Decision Making in Britain; The Map of the Ocean Floor.

Radio 2

5.00 am Bob Kilbey.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 David Hamilton.† 2.00 pm Ed Stewart.† 4.00 Much More Music.† 6.00 John Dunn.† 8.00 The Leading Ladies.† 9.00 The Songwriters.† 10.00 The Law Game. 10.30 Funny You Should Ask. 11.00 Brian Matthew. 2.00 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis. 4.30 Peter Powell. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.0-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Europe. 8.30 Baker's Half-dozen. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 The English Miniature. 10.00 Discovery. 10.30 John Peel. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Letter from London. 11.25 Scotland This Week. 11.30 Sports International. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Musical Memories. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 A Jolly Good Show. 2.30 He Calls me Godmother! 3.00 [illegible] ... World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Scotland This Week. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Classical Record Review. 11.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Report on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Four Hands in Harmony. 2.30 He Calls me Godmother! 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Ulster
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.45 Looks Familiar. 4.13-4.15 News. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.05 am-12.15 Bedtime.

Southern
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.05 am Weather followed by Talking with God.

ATV
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 ATV Today. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.05 am News. 12.10-12.40 Darts.

Yorkshire
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Looks Familiar. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Calendar. 5.15-5.45 Touch of Fashion. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm.

Border
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Electric Theatre Show. 6.00-6.35 [illegible] 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.05 am 12.08 News.

Scottish
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Pet Subject. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Job Spot. 6.30 What's Your Problem? 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.05 am-12.10 Late Call.

Tyne Tees
As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am The Good Word. 9.25-9.30 North East News. 1.20 pm-1.30 North-East News and Lookaround. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 North East News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 12.00 Woman's World of Prayer. 12.05 am Closedown.

Westward
As Thames except: 12.27 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.30-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 11.03-11.05 News. 12.00-12.05 am Faith For Life.

Granada
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This Is Your Right. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.05 After All That This. 11.15-12.20 am Canoeing into the Past.

Grampian
As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30 pm-1.00 Simply Sewing. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 7.00-7.30 Welcome to the Ceilidh. 12.00 George Hamilton IV. 12.30 am-12.35 News.

Channel
As Thames except: 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 9.28-9.30 News.

Anglia
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Out of Town. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 7.00-7.30 Life Begins at Forty. 12.05 am Superstar Profile: David Niven. 12.35 Norfolk Parson Visits America.

HTV
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 George Hamilton IV. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Easter Yeggs. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.30 Definition. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 9.28-9.30 News.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 9.47 am-10.02 Wales and the Sea. 10.48-11.03 Believe it or not. 12.00-12.05 pm Poli a Pili. 12.05-12.10 Calimero. 4.15-4.45 Gwesty Gwirion. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

Classified Guide

Box No. replies should be addressed to: The Times, P.O. Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ.

PERSONAL

RENTALS

UNFURNISHED, W2, Nr. PARK. 3 beds., dble. recept., American kitchen, 2 bath. flat, full contents. £35,000 o.n.o. Palace Properties. 486 8926.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. 2 mins. Harrods. Delightful 4th floor flat (no lift) in peaceful crescent. Large recept., & double bed., k. & b. £100 p.w. 01-937 3710. RHP.

AVAILABLE NOW.—Luxury furnished flats and houses in central London from £85 p.w.—Cutlass & Co., 01-589 5247.

CHELSEA, Knightsbridge, Belgravia. Luxury houses and flats available for long or short lets. Ring for current list. Flatland. 828 8251.

SURREY.—Fine furnished house, 6 bedrooms, pool, stable and paddock, 40 minutes train to London. Available for 4 weeks from March 28th and annually from July, at £235 weekly. Phone Ewhurst (048653) 858 evenings.

W.3.—Charming flat, with gdn., dble bed, recep, kit & bath. Suit couple/Co let. Avail now. £75 p.w. Hunters 837 7365.

MARBLE ARCH/HYDE PARK.—Luxury 1/2/3/4/5 bed flats & houses. Long/short lets. West Trend 262 6204.

STANHOPE GDNS, S.W.7.—Lovely grnd flr flat, 2 beds, 2 baths, recep & kit long let. £130 p.w. Plaza Estates. 262 3087.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Newly decorated and refurbished flat, in modern block. 3 bedrms, 2 baths (1 en-suite). Spacious 30ft dble recep., fully equipped kitchen, c.h., c.h.w., porter, lift, garage avail. £300 p.w. De La Rue/ ...

RENTALS

ST. JOHNS WOOD. Luxury 2-bed. Flat with double recep. room. Suitable for company let: £160 p.w., neg. Tel. 240 2851 or (Sat.) 486 0089.

DIPLOMATS & EXECUTIVES require furnished property. All London areas. Church Bros. & Partners 01-439 0589/7953.

PELHAM CRESCENT, S.W.7. Charming newly dec. 2 bed. flat. Avail. now. Long let. £100 p.w. At Home in London. 581 2216.

AMERICAN Executive seeks luxury flat or house up to £350 p.w. Usual fees required.—Phillips Kay & Lewis, 839 2245.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. — 2 bed furn. flat, c.h., patio. Co. let £95 p.w. 01-581 0919.

RETIRED OFFICER, some furniture and cat, seek accommodation London or near with telephone. Exch. Refs. 579 6156.

HOLLAND PK.—Elegant s/c flat for 1 person. £65p.w. 727 8205.

BRIXTON HILL. — Newly decorated, furnished 2 bedroom flat. £55p.w. + rates. Also bedsit with sep. k. & b., £20 p.w. + rates. 0622 670 635 after 6.00 p.m.

EAST DULWICH.—Kitchen/diner, one bed, bathroom. £37.50 p.w. 703 6311 (day) and 160.

CHELSEA.—Elegant flats, lounge, 2 bedrooms, k. & b., C.H., £145. Long let. Tel. 730 8982.

BEDSITS TO PENTHOUSES. All over London. Let us help you! Busy Bees. 01-278 8184.

RICHMOND CENTRE, large elegant house and garden, suitable embassy or company. 1/2 yrs. Furnished. £350 p.w.—984 5751.

[illegible]

(continued on page 24)

Entertainments Guide

CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office. When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

[illegible]

CONCERTS

[illegible]

THEATRES

ARTS 836 2132. Reduced Price Prevs. tomor. to 9 March, 8 p.m. Opens 10 March, 7 p.m. Thereafter 8 p.m. JOHN JUDD in TWISTED CUES & ELLIPTICAL BALLS. An affectionate look at the lives & music of Gilbert & Sullivan £4, £3, £2.

KING'S HEAD, Upper St, Islington. 226 1916. Richard Hoggett as Evelyn Waugh in A TALENT TO ABUSE. Lunchtime 1.15 till Mar 7. £1 plus membership.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311. Must end Sat! Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 2.30, Sat 4.30 and ...

PHOENIX c.c. 01-836 2294/5. Credit Card Bookings 01-836 8611. THAT'S SHOWBIZ! "Variety is back in the West End" D. Mail. "Terrific" F. Times. "Show Stopping" Times. "That's Magic" S. Tel. Prices: £2.50, ...

SHAFTESBURY, cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Box Office 836 6596 or 836 4255. Credit card bkgs. 839 7516, 839 4682, 839 4855 (9.30-6.0, Sat 9.30-4.30). Group Bookings Only. 01-839 3092. TOM CONTI & GEMMA CRAVEN THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG.

[illegible]

CINEMAS

CAMDEN PLAZA, Camden Town 485 2443 (opp Tube). ISABELLE HUPPERT in Maurice Pialat's LOULOU (X) 2.35, 4.40, 6.45, 9.00.

CLASSIC 1 CHELSEA, King's Road. 352 5096. Isabelle Huppert in Pialat's LOULOU (X) progs 2.30, 6.30, 8.30. Last perf bookable.

[illegible]

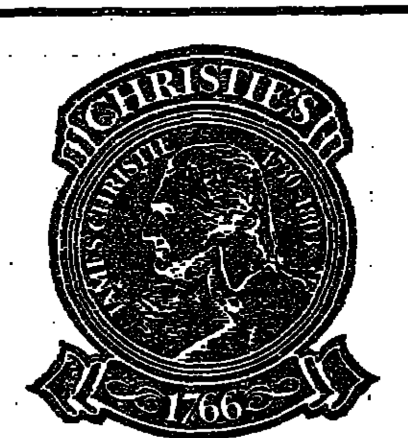
ART GALLERIES

BLOND FINE ART, 33 Sackville St., W.1. 439 1230. John Buckland Wright—Prints. Until 31 March.

BRITISH LIBRARY (In Brit. Museum). George Eliot until 26 April. Tudor Map Making until 31 Dec. ...

[illegible]

Salerooms and Antiques



8 King Street, St James's
London SW1Y 6QT. Tel: 01-839 9060
Telex 916429 Telegrams CHRISTIART
London SW1

Today, Tuesday, 3 March at 10.30 a.m.
ART NOUVEAU, ART DECO AND STUDIO POTTERY. Catalogue £3.20.

Wednesday, 4 March at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART. Catalogue £1.50.

Friday, 6 March at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT VICTORIAN PICTURES. Catalogue £5.

Thursday, 12 March at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
FINE ENGLISH FURNITURE, EASTERN RUGS AND CARPETS. Catalogue £4.50.

Friday, 13 March at 10.30 a.m.
MODERN BRITISH AND IRISH PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE. Catalogue £4.

All catalogue prices are post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the catalogue.
For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact: 85 Old Brompton Road, London S.W.7. Tel.: (01) 581 2231.

CHRISTIE'S AGENTS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Inverness: Jack Buchanan Tel: (0463) 34603
Argyll: Sir Ilay Campbell, Bt. Tel: (04995) 286
Edinburgh: Michael Clayton. Tel: (031) 225 4757
Northumbria: Aidan Cuthbert. Tel: (04347) 3181
North-West: Victor Gubbins. Tel: (0768) 66766
Yorkshire: Nicholas Brooksbank. Tel: (0904) 30911
West-Midlands: Michael Thompson. Tel: (07462) 61891
East Anglia: Henry Bowring. Tel: (0603) 614546
Cheltenham: Philip Leatham and Rupert de Zoete. Tel: (0242) 518999
Mid-Wales: Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, Bt. Tel: (0242) 518999
Hampshire: Denys Wrey. Tel: (0264) 3750
West Country: Richard de Pelet. Tel: (0963) 70518
Nigel Thimbleby. Tel: (0305) 68748
Devon & Cornwall: Christopher Petherick. Tel: (0726) 64672
Ireland: Desmond Fitz-Gerald, The Knight of Glin. Tel: (0001) 680585/693925
Northern Ireland: John Lewis-Crosby. Tel: (0396) 830574
Isle of Man: Quentin Agnew-Somerville. Tel: (0624) 813 724
Channel Islands: Richard de La Hey. Tel: (0534) 77582

Sotheby's

FOUNDED 1744

New Bond Street

Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA Telephone: (01) 493 8080

Wednesday 4th March at 10.30 am
JAPANESE NETSUKE, INRO, OJIME, LACQUER WARES AND SCULPTURE *Cat. (73 illus.) £1.50*

Wednesday 4th March at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
19th CENTURY EUROPEAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS *Cat. (86 illus.) £2*

Thursday 5th March at 10.30 am
RUSSIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, WATERCOLOURS AND SCULPTURE *Cat. (111 illus.) £4*

Thursday 5th March at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm at the Conduit Street Gallery, 26 Conduit Street, W1
WATCHES, SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND CLOCKS *Cat. (53 illus.) £4.50*

Friday 6th March at 10 am
ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS
and at 11 am
ENGLISH FURNITURE, PAINTINGS ON GLASS AND WORKS OF ART *Cat. (20 illus.) £1.50*

Friday 6th March at 10.30 am
FINE AND RARE WINES, SPIRITS, VINTAGE PORT AND CIGARS *Cat. £1*

Tuesday 10th March at 10.30 am
THE LIPSKI COLLECTION OF ENGLISH AND IRISH DELFWARE PART I *Cat. (205 illus.) £7.50*

Belgravia

Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB Telephone: (01) 235 4311

Wednesday 4th March at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
COSTUMES AND TEXTILES 1500-1960 *Cat. (109 illus.) £2.25*

Thursday 5th March at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
JAPANESE CERAMICS, WORKS OF ART AND FURNITURE *Cat. (158 illus.) £4.50*

Tuesday 10th March at 11 am
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS *Cat. (96 illus.) £1.40*

Chancery Lane

115, Chancery Lane (Hodgson's Rooms) London, WC2A 1PX Telephone: (01) 405 7238

Thursday 5th March and following day at 1 pm
PRINTED BOOKS *Cat. £1*

Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms or by post from Catalogue Department, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA

Chester

Sotheby Beresford Adams, Booth Mansion, 28-30 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2NA Telephone: (0244) 315531

Thursday 12th March at 11.30 am and 2.30 pm
GOOD 18th AND 19th CENTURY FURNITURE, EASTERN CARPETS AND RUGS, WORKS OF ART INCLUDING BRONZES, FINE WATCHES AND CLOCKS *Illus. Cat. £5*

Pulborough

Sotheby King and Chasemore, Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AJ Telephone: (07982) 3831

Tuesday 10th March at 10.30 am and 2 pm
MINIATURES, PRINTS, WATERCOLOURS AND OIL PAINTINGS, ALSO STUDIO COLLECTIONS BY THOMAS NICHOLSON TYNDALE AND WILLIAM BRIGHT MORRIS *Illus. Cat. £2.50*

Sotheby's Collectors' Week. 6th – 10th April. A five day programme based on our Belgravia salerooms which aims to inform collectors, or would be collectors with a limited budget. Fee: £130 plus VAT. For further information please telephone (01) 937 2554

Other salerooms and offices: **Bournemouth** (0202) 294425/6; **Cambridge** (0223) 67624/5; **Cheltenham** (0242) 510500; **Edinburgh** (031) 226 7201; **Glasgow** (041) 221 4817; **Harrogate** (0423) 501466; **Slane** Drogheda 24401; **Taunton** (0823) 88441; **Torquay** (0803) 26277

Books, Books, Books

Auction No. 13 of Numismatic Literature on March 18th.

Coins, Coins, Coins

Auction No. 14 of English Gold Coins on March 19th.
Both sales at Quaglino's.
Catalogues on request.

Spink

Spink & Son Ltd. King Street, St James's, London SW1. Tel: 01-930 7888 (24 hours) Telex 916711

Spink
Buy
Oriental Art
Spink & Son Limited
King Street, St James's, London SW1.
Telephone 01-930 7888 (24 hours)
Established 1666

DAVID BLACK
ORIENTAL CARPETS
96 Portland Road W11
Tel: 01-727 2566
BUY

STEWART WARD
CURRENT PRICES

	Buying	Selling
Elizabeth Sovereigns	£56	£59
Krugerrands	£230	£233
Half Sovereigns	£39	£44
George & Edward Sovereigns	£61	£66

at their West End Offices 8 Blenheim St, New Bond St, London W1. Tel: 01-629 6166. All transactions in cash, confidential on quality and markets. Gold at $503 ($2.23). The above prices are for single coins, discounts on quantity.

MEDALS
Orders, decorations and medals purchased. Consult Brian Woodcraft our specialist. No commission and immediate settlement.
William Whelan Ltd.
8-9 Crown Passage, Pall Mall, St. James's, London SW1Y 6PP
Telephone 01 930 3995/8547

Harrods ESTATE OFFICES

This week's
AUCTION SALES
Wednesday the 4th
CARPETS & RUGS at 10 a.m.
ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE at 10.45 a.m.
SECONDARY SALE at 3.30 p.m.
Thursday the 5th
OBJETS D'ART, etc. at 10 a.m.
SILVER, PLATED WARE & JEWELLERY at 2 p.m.
View today 'til 4.30 p.m.
ARUNDEL TERRACE, BARNES, S.W.13
By Hammersmith Bridge
Tel.: 748 2739/3080
Future Specialised Sale
19th March—Books
2nd April—Textiles
Entries accepted all this week

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

FRANCE.—Beautiful Chateau Louis XIII. 17 rooms, every comfort. 90 kms West Paris. Panoramic view.—C. J. Raynaud, 32 avenue Opéra. 75002 Paris. Tel. (1) 742 68 34.

PROPERTY UNDER £35,000

EARLS COURT
Conservation area. Beautifully modernized studio/maisonette on 2 floors in quiet tree lined cul de sac. Large fully fitted studio. Wrighton fitted kitchen (Moffat cooker & hob). Fitted bathroom. C.H. £27,950 to include most fittings. 990 yr. lease. Low outgoings. 828 3456 ext. 325 (day) 373 7191 (eves).

LONDON FLATS

GLOUCESTER ROAD AREA LIGHT AND AIRY
Very attractive newly converted London flat, lower ground floor level. 3 double bedrooms, large sitting room. Superbly equipped fully fitted kitchen/dining area with pine cupboards. Ample storage area. Gas c.h. Fitted carpets throughout. Residential parking. 120 years lease.
£60,000
Basingstoke (0256) 881242

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

VICTORIAN terrace house, quiet, conveniently situated, in good order, 5 mins. station, 1 hour Victoria, trains hourly. 3 bedrooms, 3 recept., pleasant garden. £29,000. Tel.: Lewes (07916) 4348.

Phillips

Tuesday, 3 March, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART

Wednesday, 4 March, 11 a.m.
CHINESE AND JAPANESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART

Wednesday, 4 March, 12 noon
LEAD SOLDIERS AND FIGURES
Viewing: Day prior 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and morning of sale until 11 a.m.
Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post

Wednesday, 4 March, 2 p.m.
SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ALSO BAROMETERS
Illustrated Catalogue £1.75 by post

Wednesday, 4 March, 2 p.m.
MINIATURES, SILHOUETTES, FANS AND HOLY ICONS
Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post

Thursday, 5 March, 11 a.m.
POSTAGE STAMPS: THE "CLASSIC COLLECTION OF NORWEGIAN POSTAGE STAMPS"
Illustrated Catalogue £2.30 by post

Friday, 6 March, 11 a.m.
SILVER AND PLATE
Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post

Monday, 9 March, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS

Monday 9 March, 2 p.m.
OIL PAINTINGS

Tuesday, 10 March, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 10 March, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY

Wednesday, 11 March, 11 a.m.
GOOD ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL CERAMICS AND GLASS including a collection of Welsh Porcelain
Illustrated Catalogue £1.75 by post

Phillips and Swetenhams, Bold Place, Chester, will be holding their first sale on Friday, 6th March at 11.30 a.m., including Antique Furniture and Metalware. Viewing Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and morning of sale. Illustrated Catalogue £1.25 by post.

The following illustrated booklets give advice on how to sell at Phillips and are available free of charge.

☐ Furniture ☐ Musical Instruments ☐ Textiles ☐ Valuations
☐ Silver ☐ Ceramics ☐ Oriental
☐ Art Nouveau ☐ Books ☐ Postage Stamps

Please indicate which you require, attach your name and address, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

7 Blenheim Street, New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AS. Telephone: 01-629 6602.

Catalogues 50p by post and viewing 2 days prior unless otherwise stated.

Members of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers

Legal Appointments

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Legal Services)

£17,022-£17,964

This is a third tier appointment in the Department of Administration, which as Head of the Legal Division is responsible to the Director of Administration for providing the full range of legal services and advice to the Authority and other Directorates.

Duties will be wide ranging and will involve all aspects of the legal work of a Metropolitan County Council including conveyancing, litigation and some advocacy. Applicants should be solicitors with substantial practical experience (preferably in Local Government or other large organisations).

A casual car allowance will be available and a re-location expenses scheme is operated by the Council in relation to assistance with housing accommodation, removal, legal and associated expenses in approved cases.

Further information and application forms from:

The Director of Manpower Services, Raines House, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, WF1 1HN,
to be returned by 20th March, 1981.

WEST YORKSHIRE Metropolitan County Council

COMPANY SECRETARY (DESIGNATE)

c.£13,000 Substantial Benefits

Our client, a rapidly expanding major financial services group with interests in life assurance, pensions, unit trusts and financial services, is seeking an Assistant Company Secretary. This is a senior appointment with excellent career prospects.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the secretarial and the legal functions of a group of companies. Administrative duties would include the management of a developing mortgage operation.

The ideal candidate will be professionally qualified (preferably a solicitor) with recent practical experience of company secretarial work in a life insurance environment and a comprehensive understanding of relevant legislation. Experience in mortgages would be a considerable advantage.

In addition to an attractive salary, the substantial benefits package would include Mortgage subsidy, Non-contributory pension scheme, Subsidised BUPA, Relocation expenses.

Applications to: Eric Houghton at:-

Houghton Sanderson Associates Ltd
Insurance Recruitment Consultants
Dunster House, 37 Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7HQ. Telephone: 01-623 [illegible]

In today's climate it's absolutely vital to ensure that your applications are right. To make sure that you get the interviews you want.

Personnel Services for the Individual places at your disposal a unique and comprehensive range of professional skills, resources and expertise, gained from many years of international consultancy experience, designed to do just that.

We write and produce your applications, C.V.s and résumés, to the highest standards, assist you with job-hunting strategy and provide support services — all tailor-made to your individual needs.

To find out more about PSI, without obligation, ring, write or call.

PSI PERSONNEL SERVICES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Fische Limited, Universal House, 60 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RR. Telephone: 01-730 0781.

FISCHE

PERSONAL TAXATION AND INVESTMENT SPECIALIST

Salary c. £12,000 Plus Benefits

THIS MAJOR financial services company is in the vanguard of development in the field of personal financial planning services.

YOU ARE legally qualified, looking for wider and more secure rewards in exchange for your skills in the taxation and investment area. You will be responsible for providing a wide range of advice to a successful nationwide team of consultants.

THIS IS a career appointment with promotion prospects, open to both men and women. In addition to salary you will get a company car, a mortgage subsidy and a pension scheme.

YOUR NAME will not be released until we have briefed you and you have given your consent. Please telephone or write to me, John Lee, Business Development Consultants, Ibex House, 42/47 Minories, London EC3N 1DY. Tel.: 01-488 0155.

A GREAT FUTURE IN LITIGATION

We seek a young Solicitor (admitted 1-3 years) to join a high-powered team in a first-class, specialist West End litigation practice. If you are personable, ambitious, enthusiastic with a capacity for learning and hard work and a strong preference for litigation we can offer a unique career. Excellent starting salary (to be negotiated), working conditions and benefits and real partnership prospects.

Phone: 580 8621 Ref: CFB or PRS

LEGAL ADVISERS
COMPANY SECRETARIES
We have many interesting vacancies nationwide for Solicitors, Barristers and Company Secretaries with experience in Commerce, Industry and Banking. Contact the Legal Department.
BEE PROFESSIONAL STAFF LIMITED
51 Queens Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3XB.
Telephone: 0273 202828

HELMSMAN required for branch office in Cornish estuary town.—Applications are invited from solicitors with at least 3 years' experience since qualifying, preferably in conveyancing. Telephone Rendell, St. Austell 5565.

MANAGER FOR COMPANY DEPT
International lawyers seek manager for statutory dept., aged 25+, with sound exp. of company law. Would prefer someone with legal qualification or Inst. of Chart. Secs. exams. Ability to do own typing preferred. Salary neg. £8,000 p.a., a.a.e. For further details please contact Mr Shelley 606 2291.
C & S PERSONNEL
Open to male or female applicants.

A GREAT future in litigation in West End practice.—See Legal Appointments today.

CLYDE & CO., solicitors with offices in London, Guildford and Hong Kong have a vacancy in their GUILDFORD office for a

Young Solicitor for Commercial Litigation

Clyde & Co. require a Solicitor, recently qualified or with up to two years' post qualification experience, to conduct international shipping, insurance and transport work including advising on and handling disputes in this country and many foreign jurisdictions, involving a wide variety of legal and commercial problems. Preference will be given to candidates with a good academic record and experience in commercial litigation. The rewards and prospects in this expanding firm are excellent.

Mrs. I.M. Brown. Ref: 19228/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form **01-734 6852,** *Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyll Street, LONDON, W1E 6EZ.*

Hoggett Bowers Executive Selection Consultants
BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM and SHEFFIELD

CONVEYANCING PARTNER of Calibre

A large and prestigious firm of solicitors in central London seeks a partner to play a significant role in the management and further development of its property department. The department undertakes substantial and highly sophisticated work.

Although the successful applicant will be very knowledgeable and competent in this field, he or she will also have management ability and a flair for creative thinking and decisive action. Standards of the highest integrity will be required.

The person appointed will be offered either an equity partnership or a salaried partnership with a view to future equity, and in either case will earn a substantial income with the opportunity of an exciting and fulfilling career.

Please write to A. M. Mallett quoting reference 966/TT on both envelope and letter. Include on a separate sheet the names of any firms to whom we may not forward your application.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells, Management Consultants, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4P 4JX.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR (or Barrister)

INTERNATIONAL TAX

Large City firm requires a solicitor or barrister qualified at least two years for their International Tax Department. Apart from a good general knowledge of UK taxation, the applicant should have experience of company, commercial and trust law. A foreign language an advantage, but not essential.

The position will only be offered to someone considered to have early partnership potential.

Applications to: Mr D. A. Church, Reynell & Son Limited, 30-32 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AA.

PERSONAL also on pages 23 and 24

MOTOR CARS

COLLECTORS CAR—INVESTMENT!
VOLVO 121
A beautiful example of this classic Volvo. 1964 model, beige/cream with red leather interior. 1-year MOT. New tyres and battery. All bills kept. £850 o.n.o. Must be seen. Tel.: 470 0563

BLACK MGBGT '79 Immaculate condition. 27,000 miles, £3,730 o.n.o., stereo, made to measure seat covers. Tel: 272 5287.

SITUATIONS WANTED

YOUNG ACTUARY, 26, male, single, seeks demanding employment, preferably involving travel, fields, willing to learn new skills, outside conventional actuarial anything legal considered. Box No. 2894 F, The Times.

INTELLIGENT.—Reliable Graduate (History), 22, ex-Public school, seeks worthwhile employment. Tel. [illegible]

SITUATIONS WANTED

BRITISH graduate (23) seeks interesting job anywhere in the world. Contact M. J. Domican. Tel.: (0872) 74211 or Telex 45684.

FLAT SHARING

W9 MANSION FLAT.—Graduate/prof. female, 27+, own room in elegant spacious C.H. flat. 4 mins. tube; £150 p.c.m. inc.—286 5983.
CHELSEA.—Beautiful large house, own room. £36 p.w. 730 5084.
CLAPHAM COMMON. Room in large charming family house, occasional baby-sitting. £30 p.w. inc. breakfast. Tel. 720 7425.
S.W.11. Prof. girl, own room, comfortable house. £35 p.w. 228 0115.
FEMALE GRADUATE. W. Kensington.—Own single room, share comfortable flat. C.H., lifts, porters, gardens. £125 p.c.m. 603 7555 (eves.).
CHELSEA.—3rd girl, 26+ o.r. £140 p.m. 730 2958 after 5.30.
TIRED COMMUTER, non-smoker, comfortable room + bath in Kensington home. 603 4827.
ISLINGTON.—Large single bedsit in family house. £150 p.c.m. 607 3306.
CHELSEA.—Girl, 25+, share room in spacious flat. £18 p.w. 552 5946 (eves.).
S.W.11.—Prof. male/female 25+, own room, share house. £90 pcm excl. Tel. 223 2003 (eves).
FLATMATES.—313 Brompton Rd. Selective sharing. 589 5491.
SHARE-A-FLAT (est 1958) for professionals. 175 Piccadilly. 493 1265.

FLAT SHARING

FLATSHARE, 213 Piccadilly. 734 0318. Professional people sharing.
S.W.11.—2nd prof. male, non-smoker, share lux. house. £30 p.w.—223 3510 eves.
S.W.7.—Girl, share room. £18 p.w. + 1 mth's. deposit.—373 5140.

RENTALS

BELGRAVIA. Stylish maisonette owned and elegantly furnished by antique dealer. 2 dble. beds., bathroom, shower-room, modern kitchen/diner. £140 p.w. all inclusive. Long or short let. Flatland, 828 8251.

EBURY STREET, SW1.—Furnished flat, charming, newly decorated and furnished to a high standard. 3 double bedrooms, sitting room, 2 bathrooms, and roof patio: £150 p.w. 493 2231.

KENSINGTON PARK ROAD. Lovely 1 bedroom flat in purpose built block, close Notting Hill tube and shops. Long or short let: £96 p.w.—Tel. 221 0351 mornings or evenings.
S. KEN. Gardon Square. Attractive, spacious flat for couple; £70 pw.—373 0667.
CHELSEA. Studio service flat, one room, kitchen and bathroom. Minimum 6 months; £78 p.w.—589 4048.
CHOOSE from our economy/luxury/deluxe apartments for short/long term. For bookings & brochures ring HFS 937 9886.

RENTALS

PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE, SW11. 2 flats available overlooking Battersea Park. 1 with 3 beds., 2 recept., k. & 2 b., c.h., 3rd floor. £150 p.w. The other with 3 beds., 1 recept., k. & 2 b., c.h., ground floor. £120 p.w. For further details please ring Clayton Bennett Heycock 584 6865.

THE VERY BEST tenants/landlords come to us. If you are letting or wanting a good property in Kensington, Belgravia, Hampstead or similar areas, please call now. Rents £80 p.w. to £600 p.w. for 1 year or more. Birch & Co. 499 8802 (7 lines).

CENTRAL LONDON.—Large luxury furnished flat. 4 dble. bed. 3 w.c. 2 large recepts., dining, fully fitted kitchen. 10ft ceilings. In purpose-built block. Porterage, entry phone. C.H. Available now. Short or long Co. let preferred. £375 pw 935 4870 or 486 0986.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. — Character, well furnished, mews house, 5 rooms, kitchen, bathroom. £135 p.w. Garage available (0893) 870268. Also W1, similar mews house.
KENSINGTON. Super short let flat for 1. £55 p.w. 727 5395.
RUCK & RUCK, 581 1741. Quality furnished houses for long lets needed urgently and also available. Ideal tenants looking.
W2. Luxury 1 bed flat, col. TV, tel. Short/long let. £100 p.w. 402 5710.

RENTALS

GEORGE KNIGH[T] & PARTNERS
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUB[URB]
A double reception room measuring 30 feet overall, a designed Hygena kitchen, c[loak]room and garage take up ground floor of this furnished house. Above, will find seven comfortable rooms and two bathro[oms]. Availability is immediate f[or a] tenancy of up to three year[s at] a commencing rent of £30[0 per] week.
See this property and m[any] others on Video at our Ha[mp]stead office:
9 Heath Street, N.W.3. (telephone 794 1125)

CHESTERTONS
Sussex Mews West, W2. [At]tractive 1 bed. mews Ho[use] with grge. in quiet res. me[ws]. Close all amenities. Avail. n[ow] 3/6/12 mths. £130 p.w.
Gt. Cumberland Place, W1. [At]tractive 2 bed. flat in h[igh] security, modern p/b blo[ck]. Trad./Repro. furns. W[ell] equipp'd. kit. Avail. now 6 mths. £250 p.w.
Westminster Gardens, S[W1]. Attractive 2 bed. flat [in] prestige mansion block. Po[rt]erage. C.H. incl. W[ell] equipp'd. kit. Trad. decor. furns. Avail. now 6/12 mt[hs]. Co. Let. £180 p.w.
01-262 5060

KEITH CARDALE GROVES
WIMBLEDON VILLAG[E]
A superb part furnished To[wn] House ideal for tennis enthu[si]asts which must be seen. [2] receptions, kitchen, 4 b[ed]rooms, 2 bathrooms, clo[ak]room, gas c.h., garage, gard[en]. Only £215 p.w. NEGOTIABL[E]. VERY HIGHLY RECO[M]MENDED.
CONTACT JENNIFER RUDN[...] 01-629 6604.

CADOGAN GARDENS CHELSEA
Luxury top floor flat, w[ell] furnished and decorated, [2] double bedrooms, fitted [kit]chen with dining area, ba[th]room, large lounge, fu[lly] equipped. Lift, private acc[ess] to gardens. Minimum let [6] months. £185 p.w.
Telephone 01-584 735[...]

DOUGLAS LYONS & LYON[S]
WANTED
Due to increase in demand [for] top quality furnished fl[ats] and houses in Central Londo[n] we are in urgent need f[or] properties for waiting app[li]cants.
Please telephone Ray Dank[s] on 235 7955.
Usual Commission required

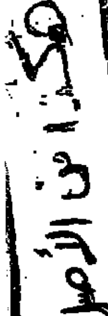
BELGRAVIA
BATON TERRACE. Supe[rb] mews house in private cour[t]yard, 2 large recept., study, [3] bed. & 3 bath. Artistically fu[r]nished. Gas C.H. £300 p.[w].
01-937 3710 RHP

KENSINGTON
Delightful 2-bedroom fla[t] beautifully modernised and fu[r]nished to a very high standar[d] ONLY . . .
£120 p.w.
Aylesford & Co., 351 238[...]

EXECUTIVE HOUSING. — In C[en]tral London and suburbs £100 - £350 a week, furnis[hed] and unfurnished. All proper[ties] have been viewed. 402 5[...] Greenacres.

WANTED URGENTLY new or [good] second hand Mercedes 600. [Box] 2735 F, The Times.
MAYS always have a good sel[ec]tion of properties to rent [in] South West London, Surrey [&] Berkshire. Tel: Oxshott 38[...] Telex 8955113.
FURNISHED flats and houses [in] Central London area availa[ble] now for long or short lets. Lenfield Ltd. 01-741 1761.
ST JOHN'S WOOD. Quiet gar[den] flat near tube: £65. 586 51[...]

ANIMALS AND BIRDS

DHUAINE SCOTTISH TERRIERS, bitch puppies, golden brindle & black. Fully vaccinated, [K.C.] registered. 01-446 0729.
PEDIGREE HAVANA kittens [...] available.—01-673 5137

(continued on page 23)